GASP

...WHO'S THERE?

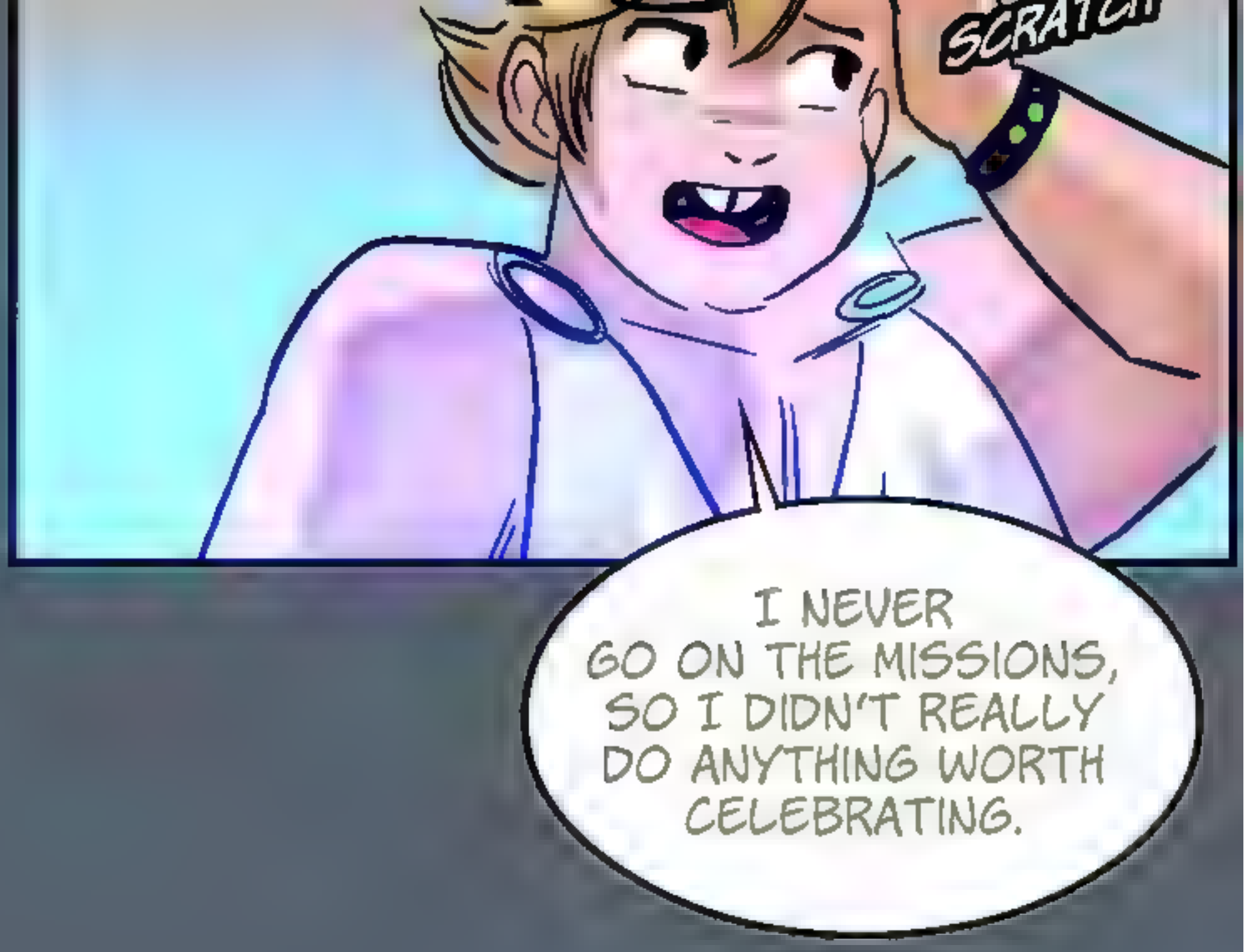
AH!
IT'S JUST
ME!

I UH... DIDN'T KNOW YOU'D BE HERE...

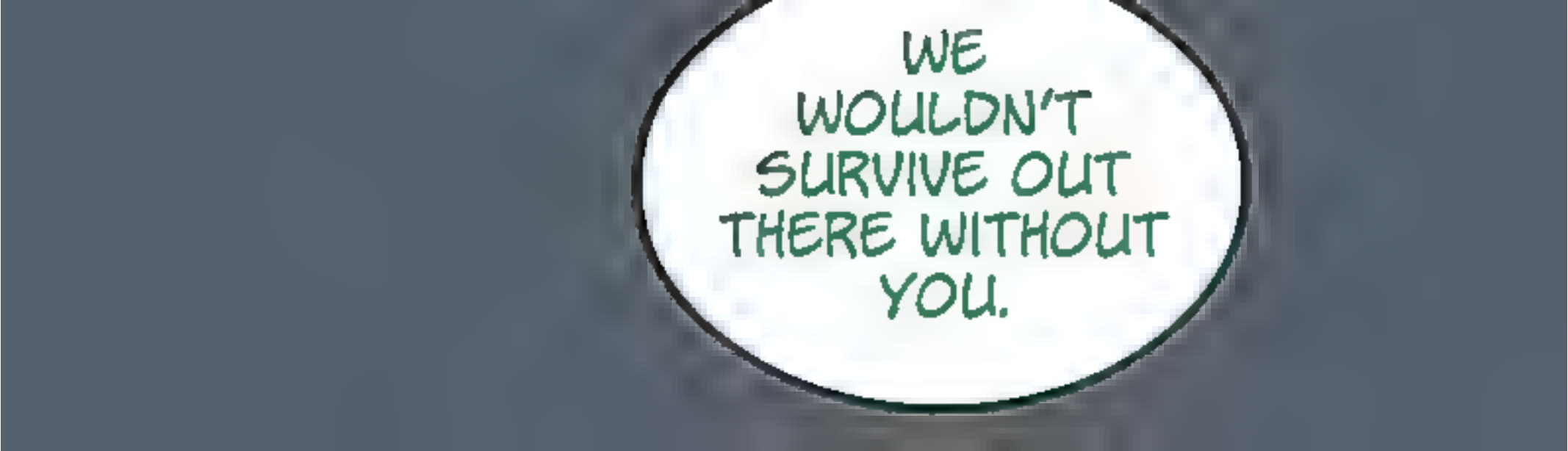
I THOUGHT EVERYONE WAS CELEBRATING BECAUSE OF THE NEW SWORD...

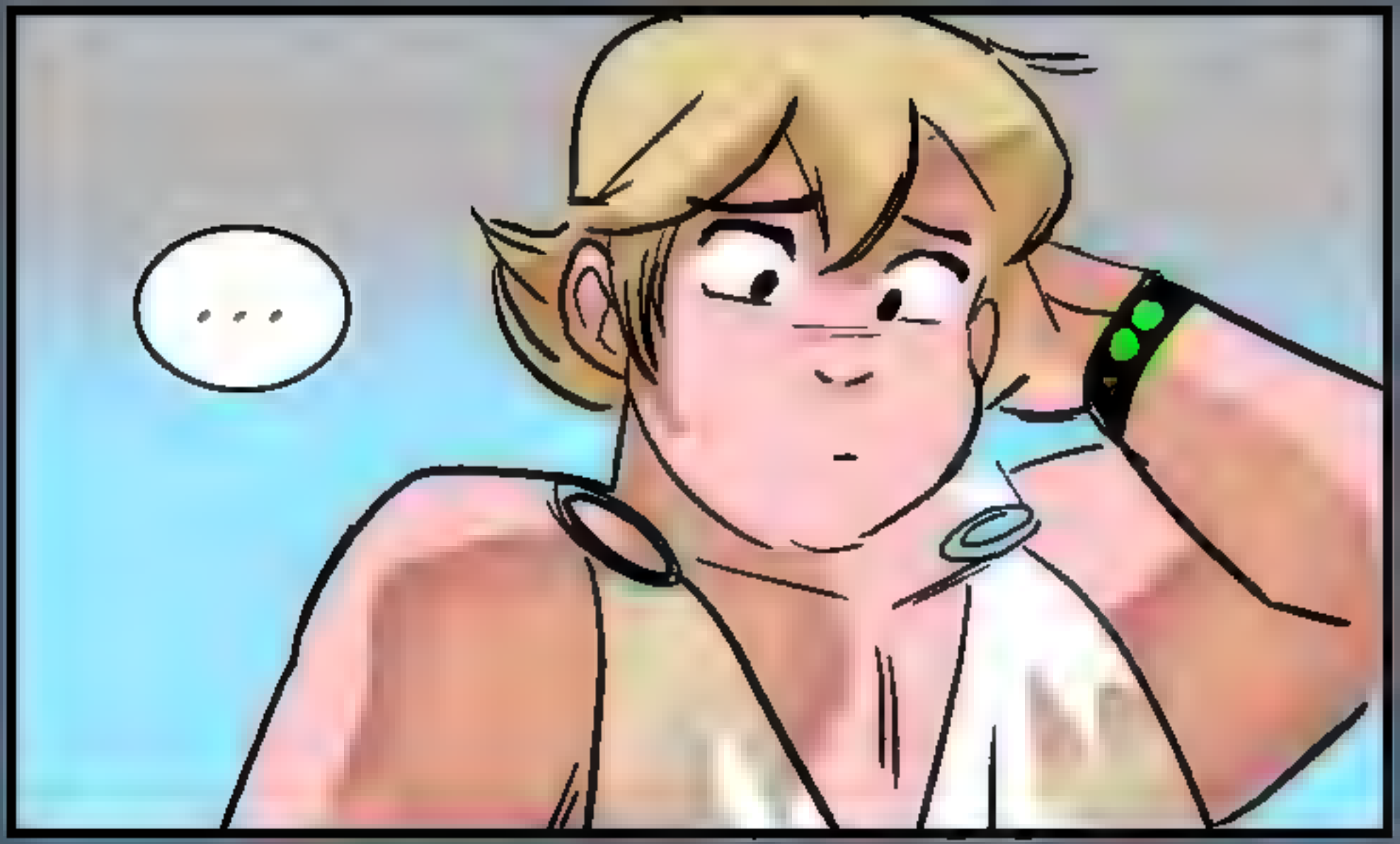
I'M JUST HERE FOR INGREDIENTS TO MAKE MORE MANANA MUFFINS.
I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND... I'LL ONLY TAKE A MOMENT!

YOU'RE WORKING? WHY NOT GO TO THE PARTY?
OH... IT'S OKAY.


SCRATCH
I NEVER GO ON THE MISSIONS, SO I DIDN'T REALLY DO ANYTHING WORTH CELEBRATING.

BUT YOU MAKE ALL OF OUR RECOVERY ITEMS...


WE WOULDN'T SURVIVE OUT THERE WITHOUT YOU.



MAYBE I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL...

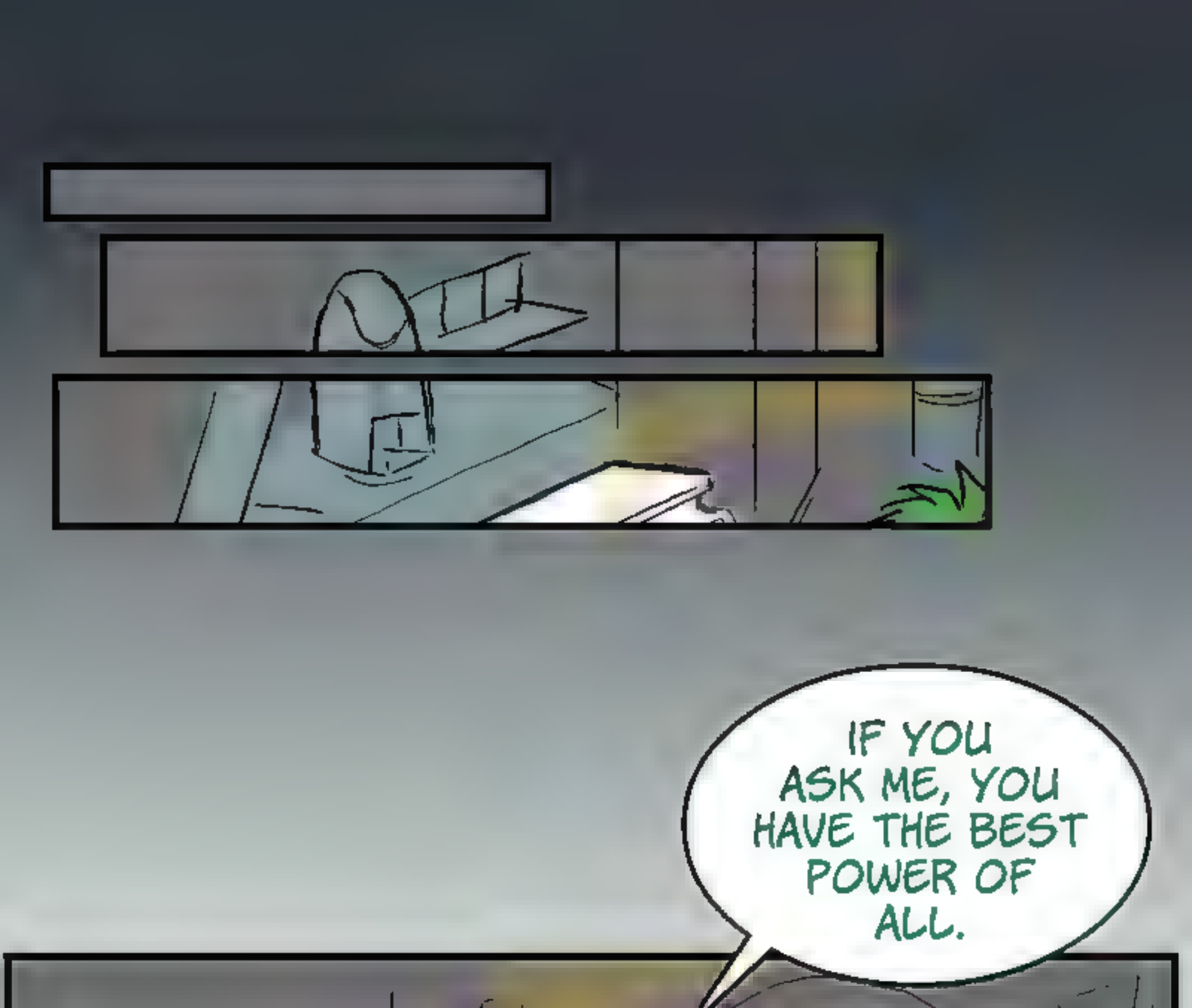
I'M NOT GOING TO THE PARTY EITHER, SO...
DO YOU NEED SOME HELP?

ROOM of SWORDS

STORY/ART: TOONIMATED

CHAPTER 81

"BUT NOW THE CALL IS SUDDEN"


IF YOU ASK ME, YOU HAVE THE BEST POWER OF ALL.

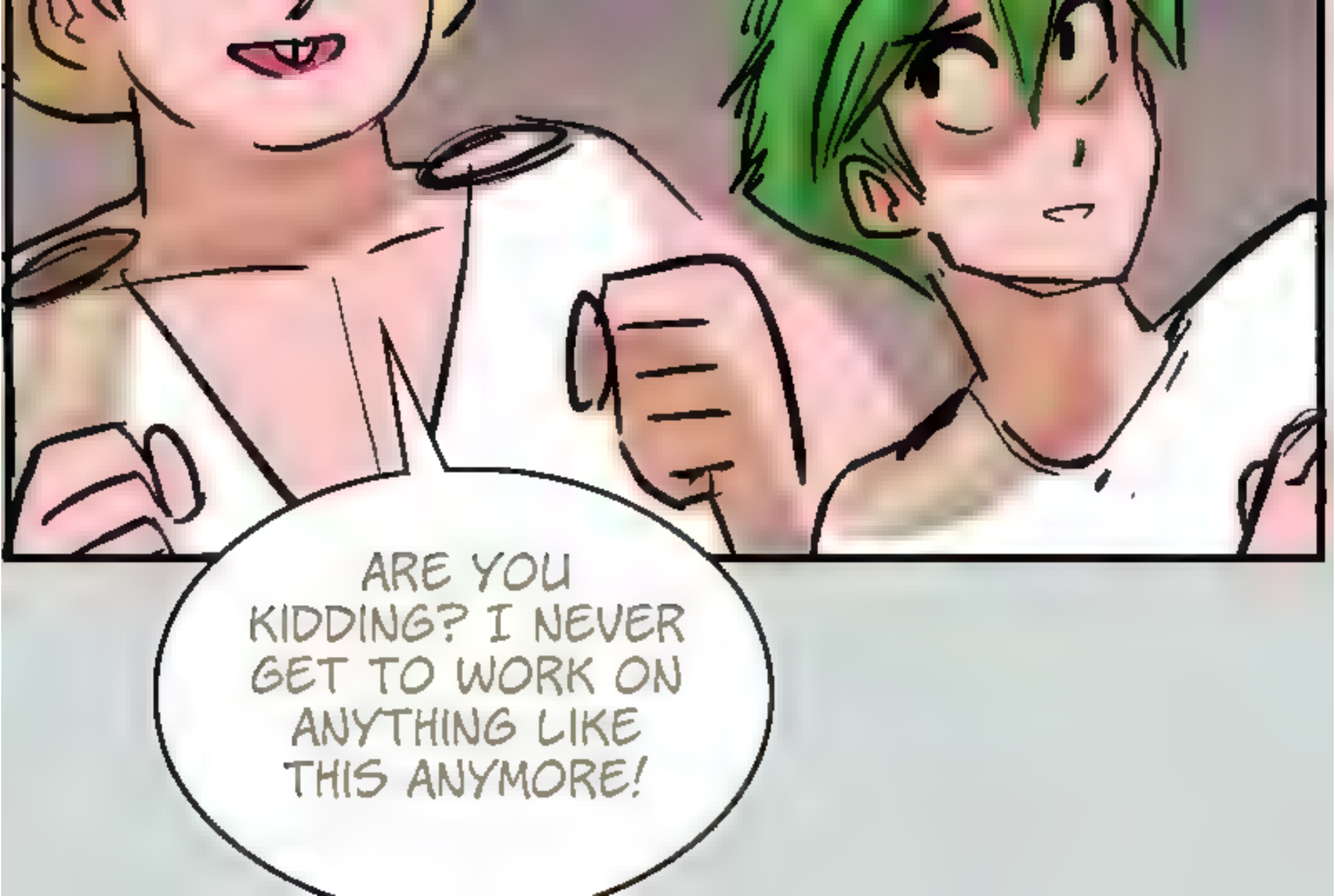
DZMF!
YOU CAN MAKE WHATEVER YOU WANT!

WELL, SORT OF... I NEED TO HAVE THE RIGHT INGREDIENTS TO FUSE.

DID YOU KNOW THAT EVERYTHING IN THE UNIVERSE IS MADE OF THE SAME FUNDAMENTAL PARTICLES?

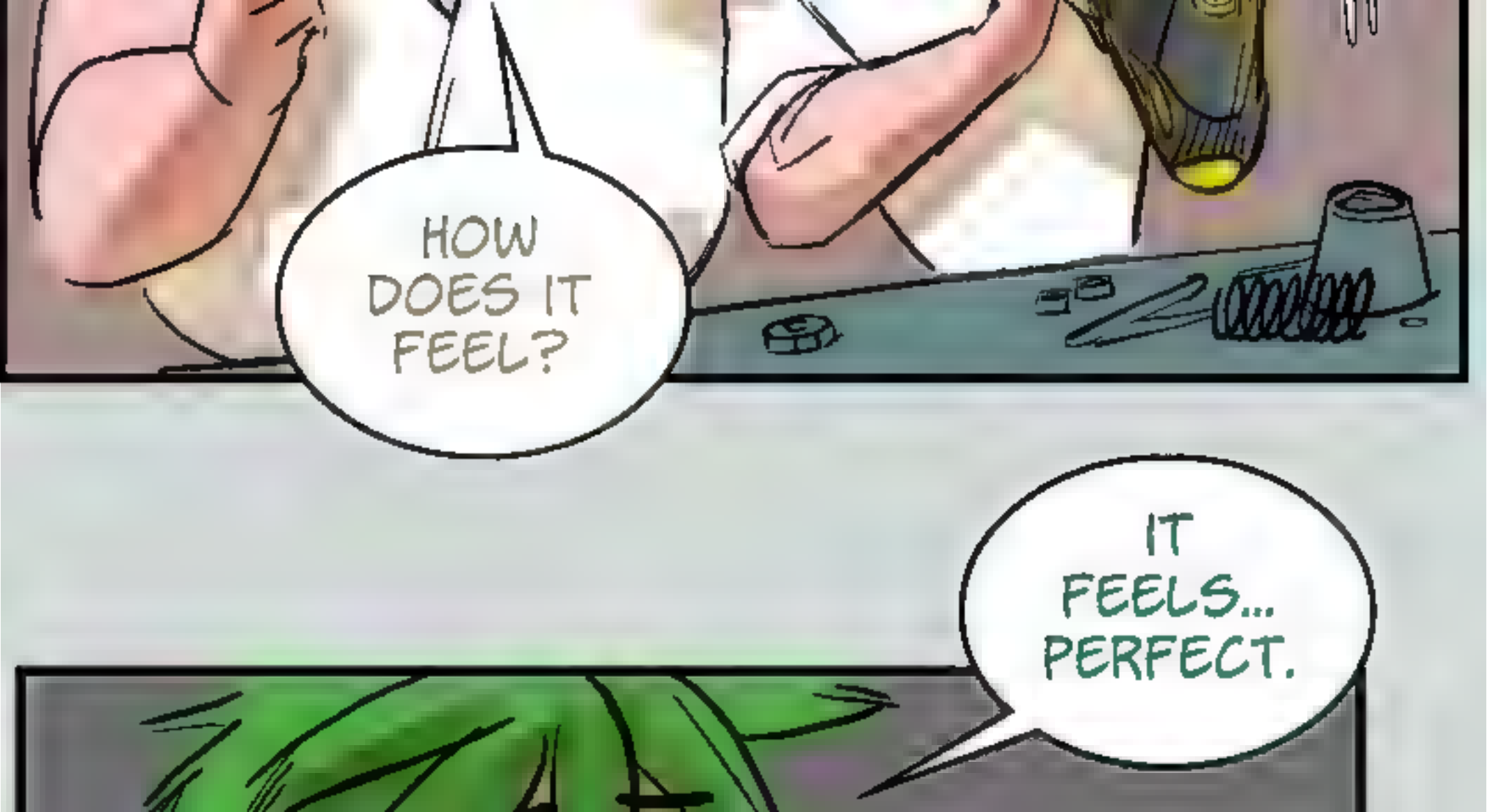
I BET
YOU COULD
MAKE JUST ABOUT
ANYTHING IF YOU
STARTED SMALL
ENOUGH!

THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME WITH THIS, BY THE WAY...
I REALLY DID JUST PLAN ON HELPING YOU MAKE THE MUFFINS.


ARE YOU KIDDING? I NEVER GET TO WORK ON ANYTHING LIKE THIS ANYMORE!

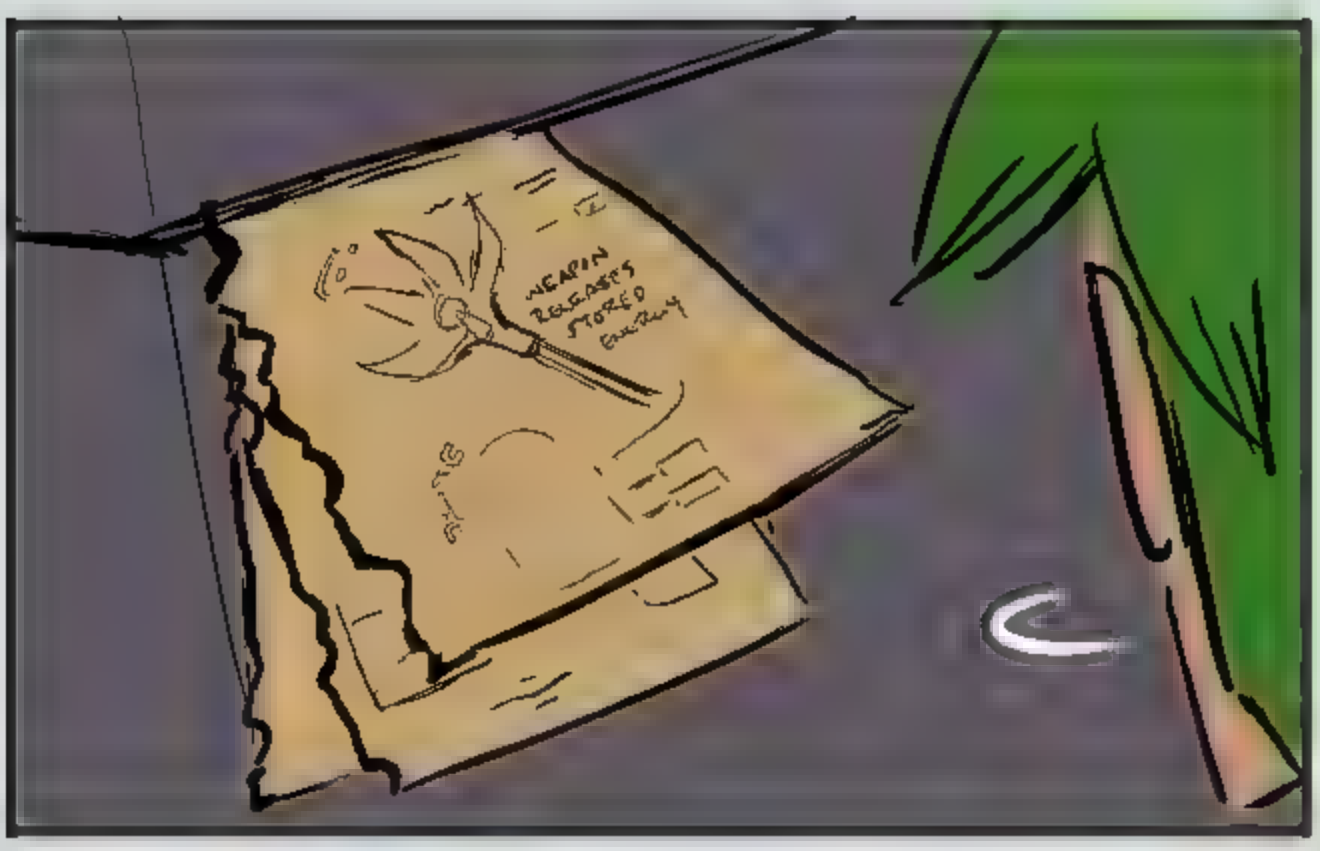
IT'S FUN TO HAVE A CHALLENGE.

IT'S WORKING!

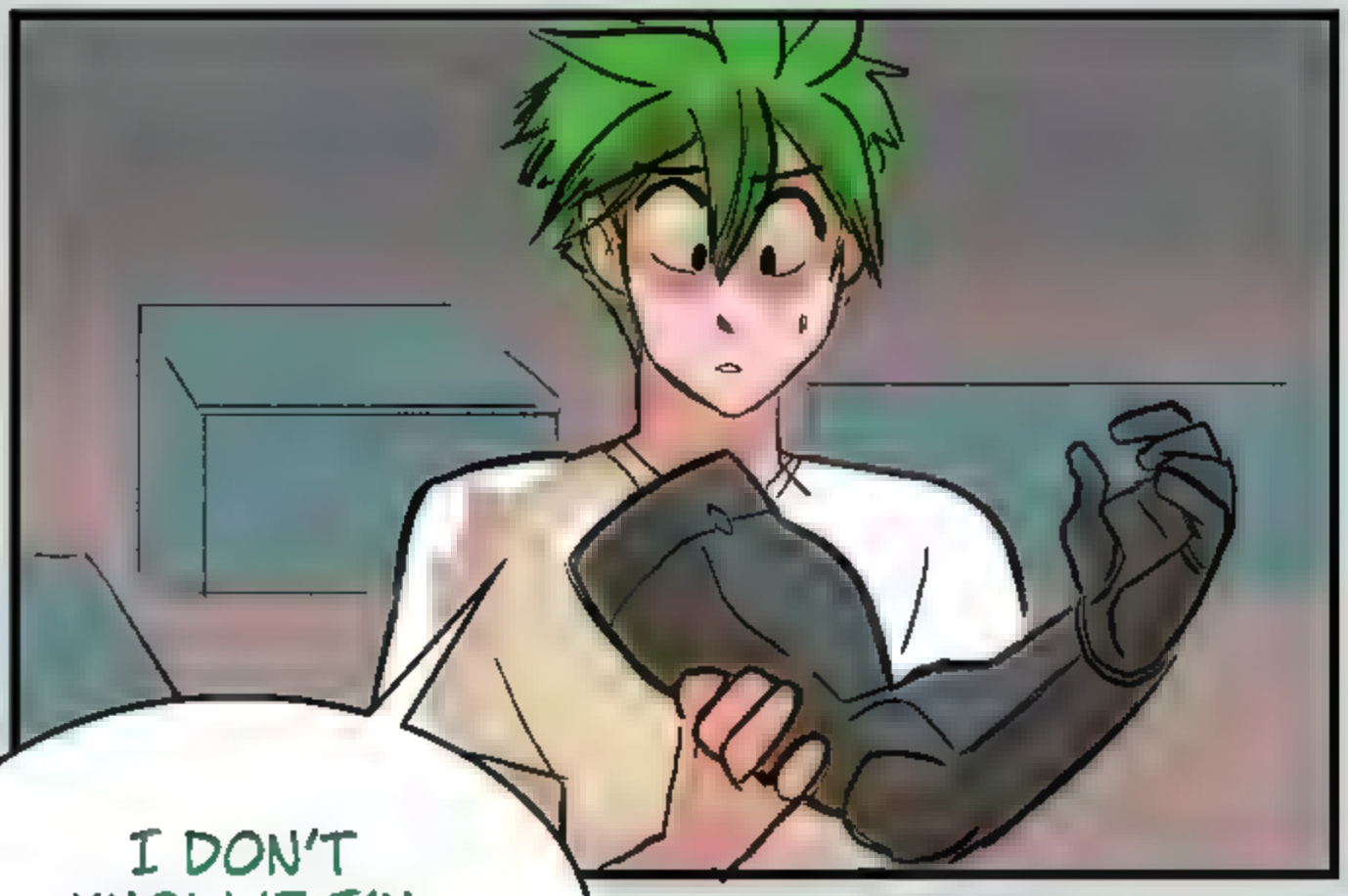

HOW DOES IT FEEL?
IT FEELS... PERFECT.

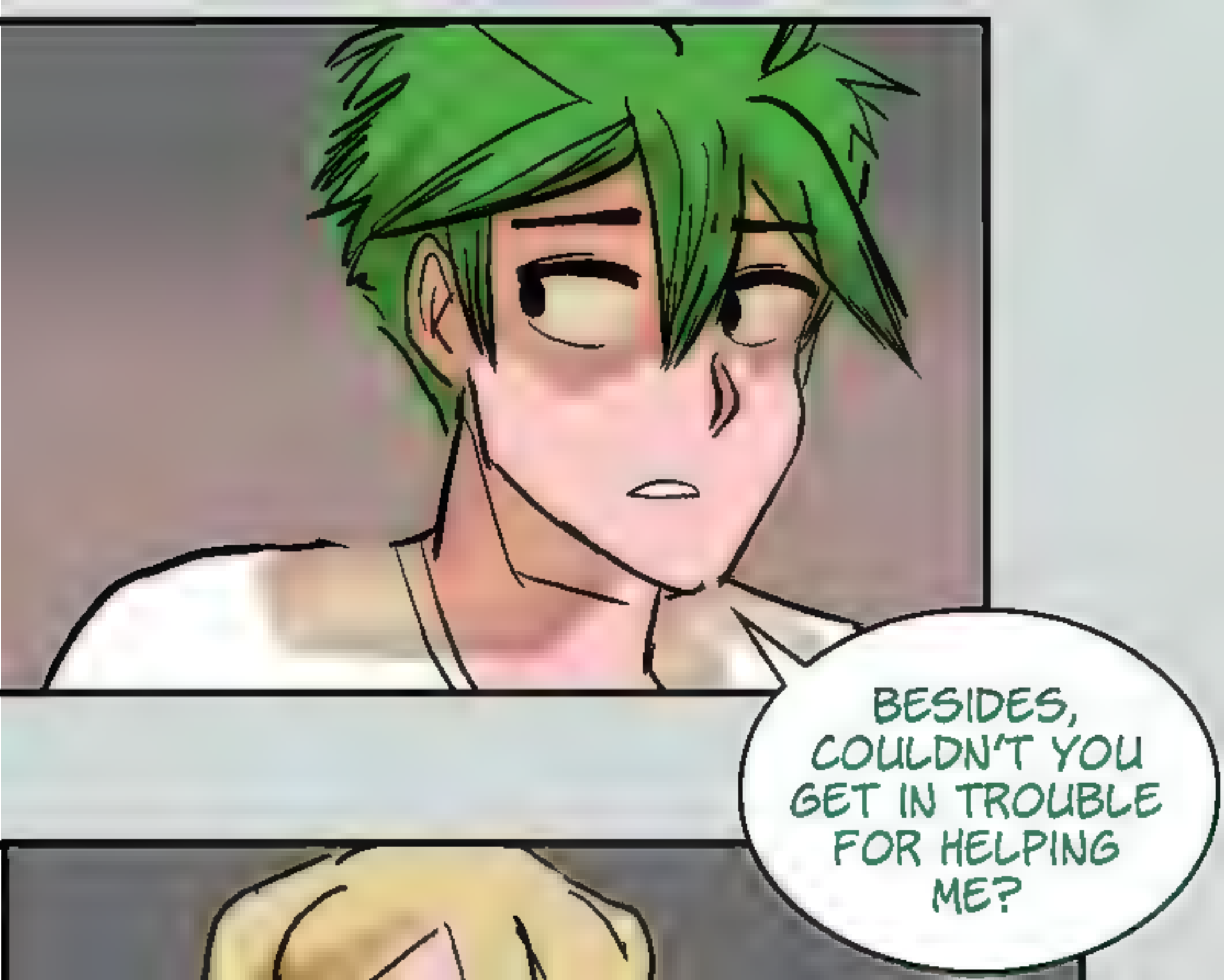
IT LOOKS GREAT TOO!
I THINK THESE PIECES MIGHT BE MY BEST WORK YET...

WOW, I CAN'T WAIT TO WATCH THE LOOKS ON EVERYONE'S FACES WHEN THEY SEE IT!


WEAPON
RELEASES
STORED
ENERGY

REMOVE
OH NO, DID SOMETHING GO WRONG?


I DON'T KNOW IF I'M READY TO WEAR THIS YET...
THE LAST THING I NEED IS FOR EVERYONE TO SEE ME AS A BIGGER THREAT...

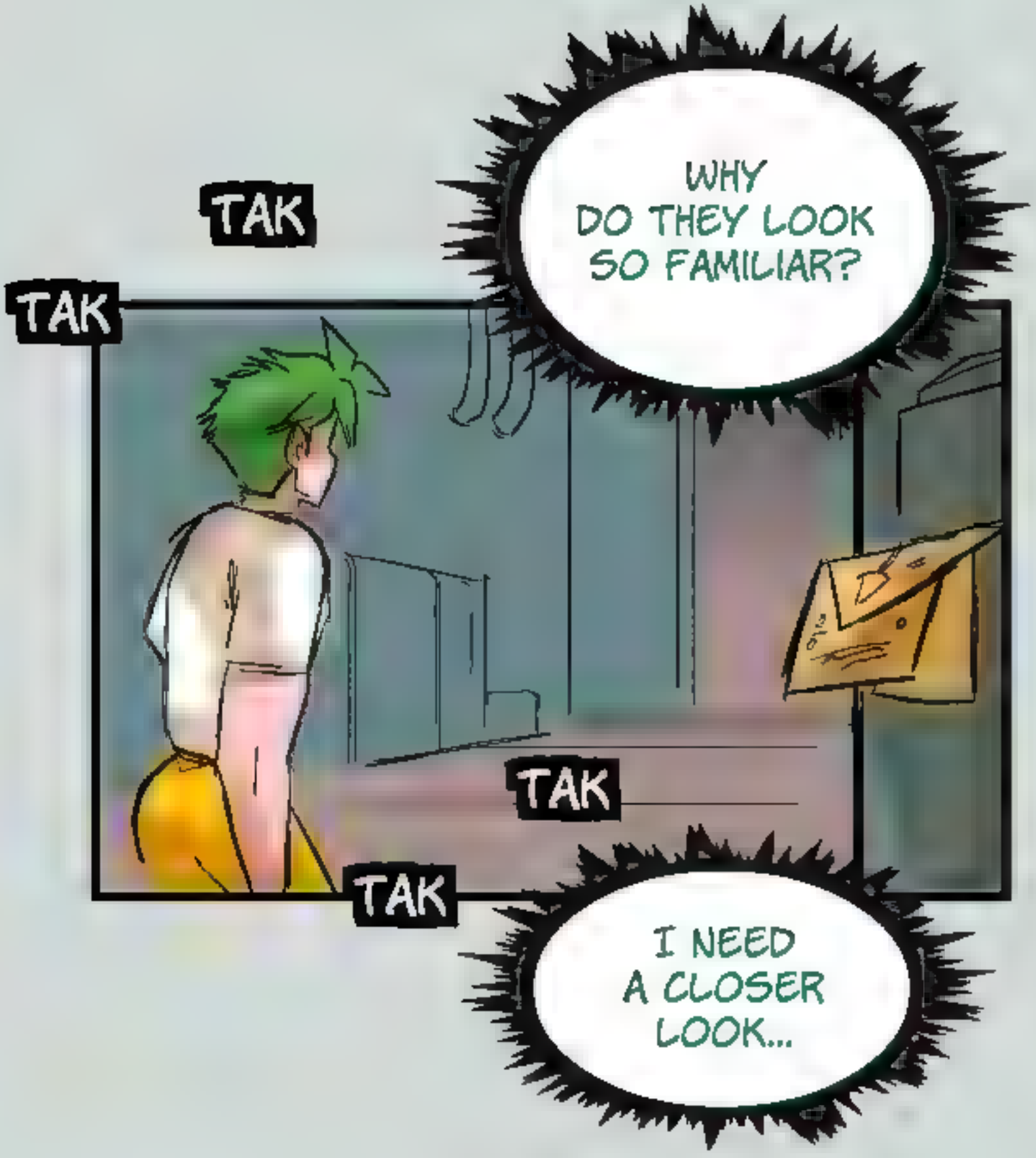

BESIDES, COULDN'T YOU GET IN TROUBLE FOR HELPING ME?

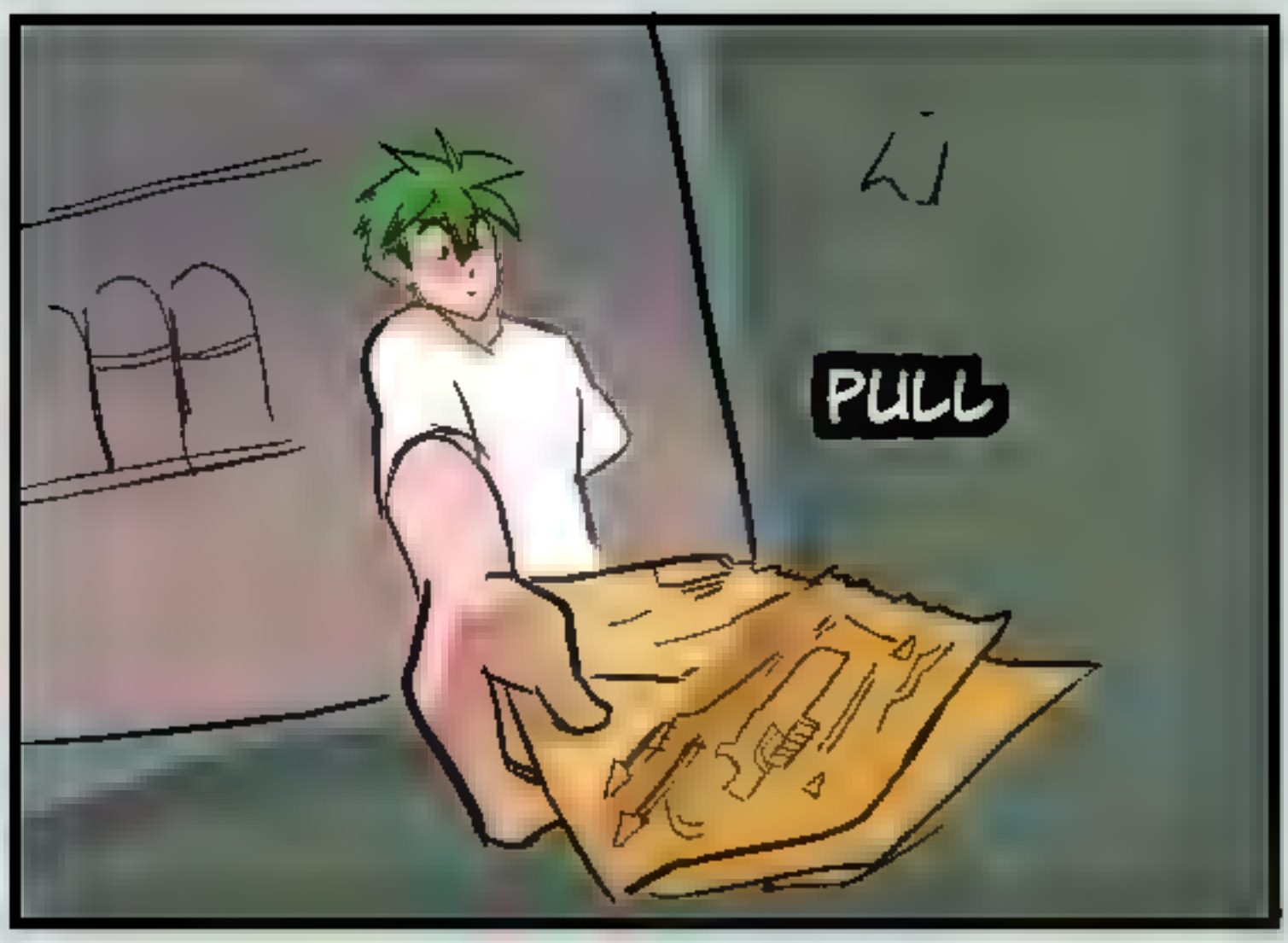
YOU HAVE A POINT.
I BETTER GET BACK TO WORK BEFORE SOMEONE WONDERS WHAT I'VE BEEN UP TO.

I'M REALLY SORRY, OLI...
DON'T BE. IT'S STILL THE MOST FUN I'VE HAD IN A WHILE.

SHUT

THOSE PAPERS...

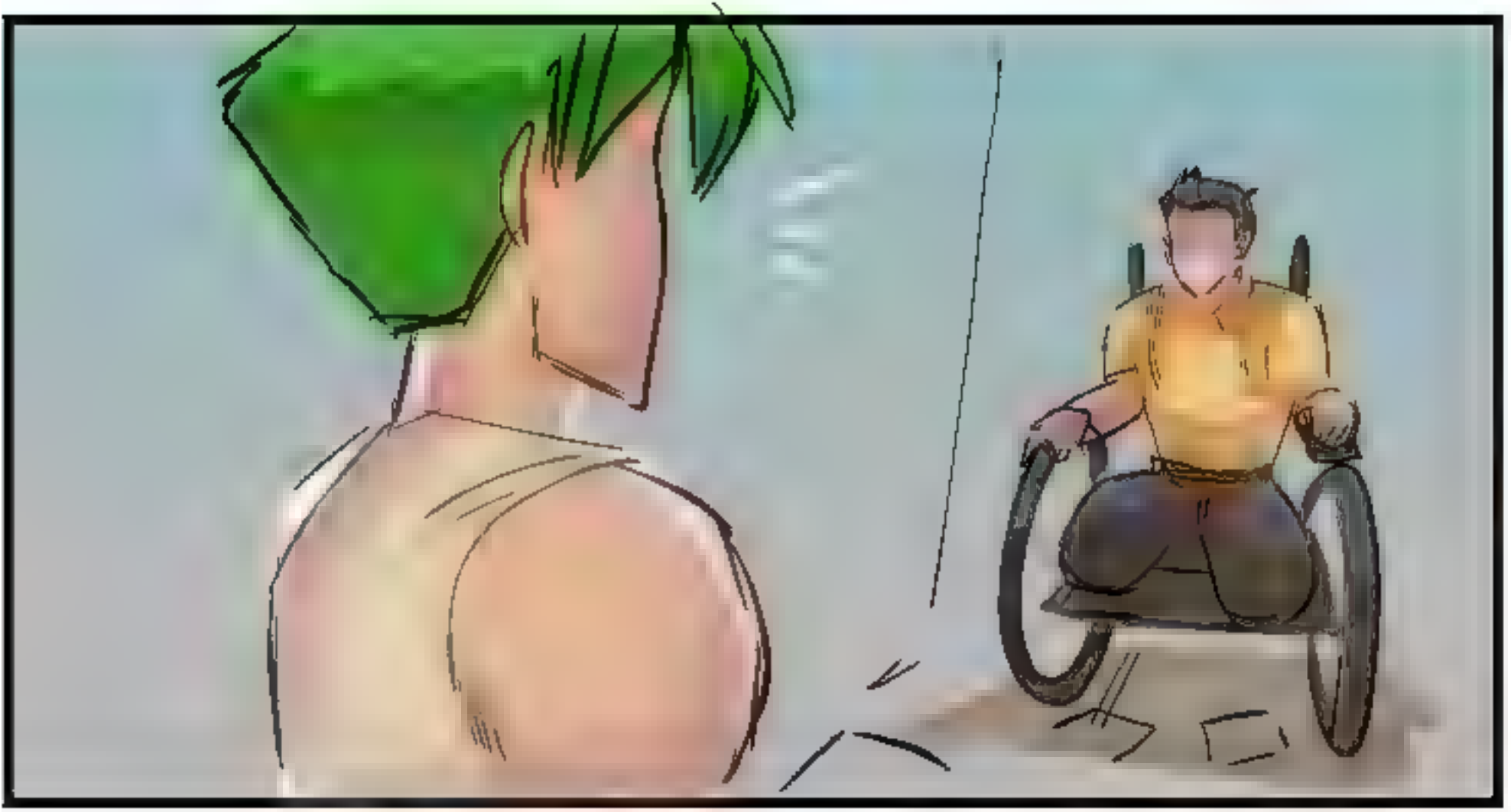

TAK
TAK
WHY DO THEY LOOK SO FAMILIAR?
TAK
TAK
I NEED A CLOSER LOOK...


PULL

THE
TORN EDGES...
LIKE PAGES FROM
A BOOK...!

THIS CAN'T BE RIGHT!

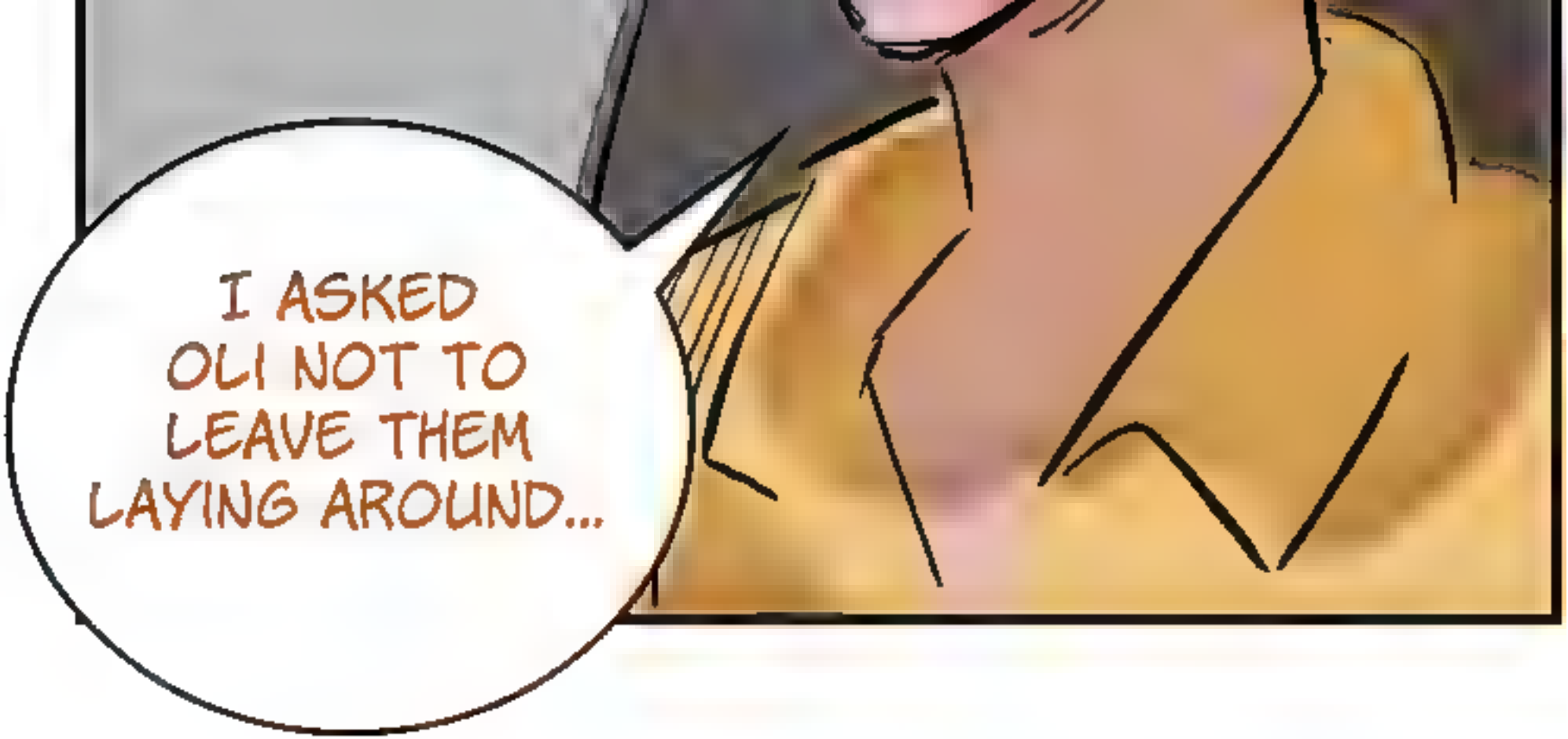
GYRUS?



DON!

...IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT, AMIGO?

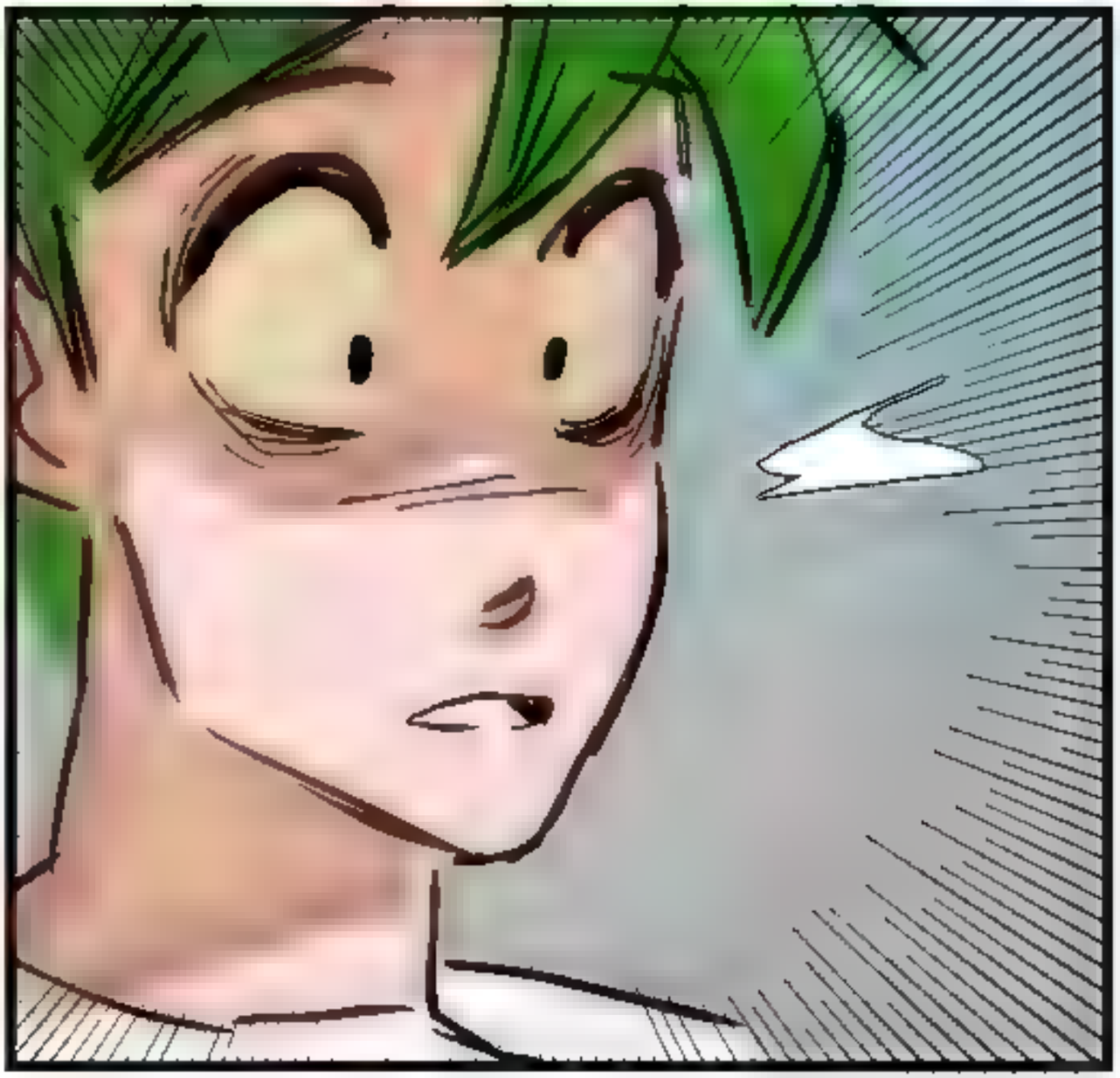
AH...
ARE THOSE THE DESIGNS FOR OUR WEAPON SYSTEM?


I ASKED OLI NOT TO LEAVE THEM LAYING AROUND...

IT'S NOT HIS FAULT!

I... SAW
THE PAGES
STICKING OUT OF
A PILE AND THOUGHT THEY
LOOKED LIKE PART OF A
JOURNAL I FOUND
IN MY ROOM....

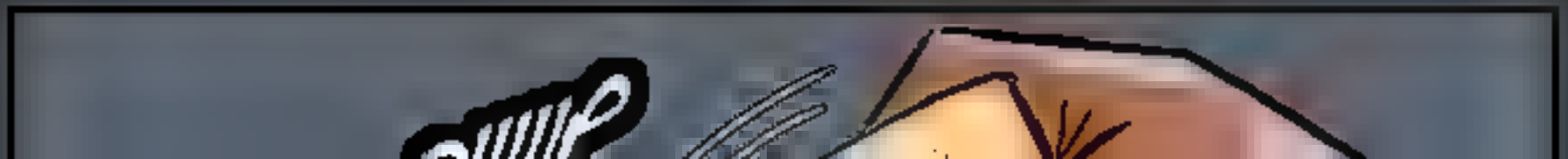
IT'S OKAY.
THEY ARE YOUR DESIGNS, AFTER ALL.

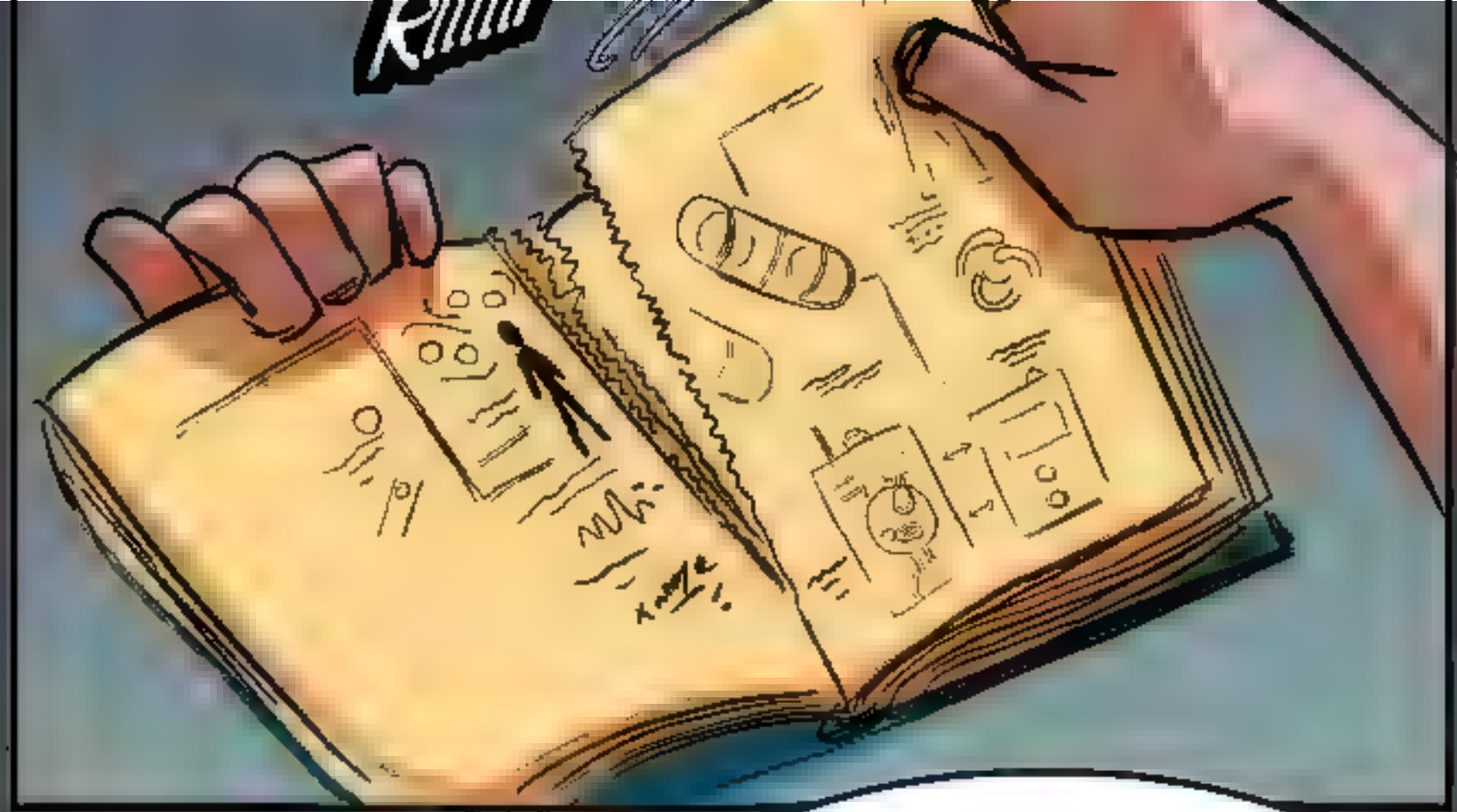


AFTER THE INCIDENT TWO YEARS AGO, KODYA FOUND THEM IN YOUR JOURNAL.

YOU MAY
HAVE BEEN INTENDING
TO BUILD SOMETHING
THAT WOULD ALLOW US TO
PROTECT OURSELVES
IF YOU LOST
CONTROL.

UNFORTUNATELY, YOU HAD BECOME SO UNSTABLE IN THE END... YOU MUST NOT HAVE HAD THE ABILITY TO GIVE THEM TO US BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE...





IT'S SAD TO THINK NOW THAT SUCH A TRAGEDY COULD HAVE BEEN PREVENTED.

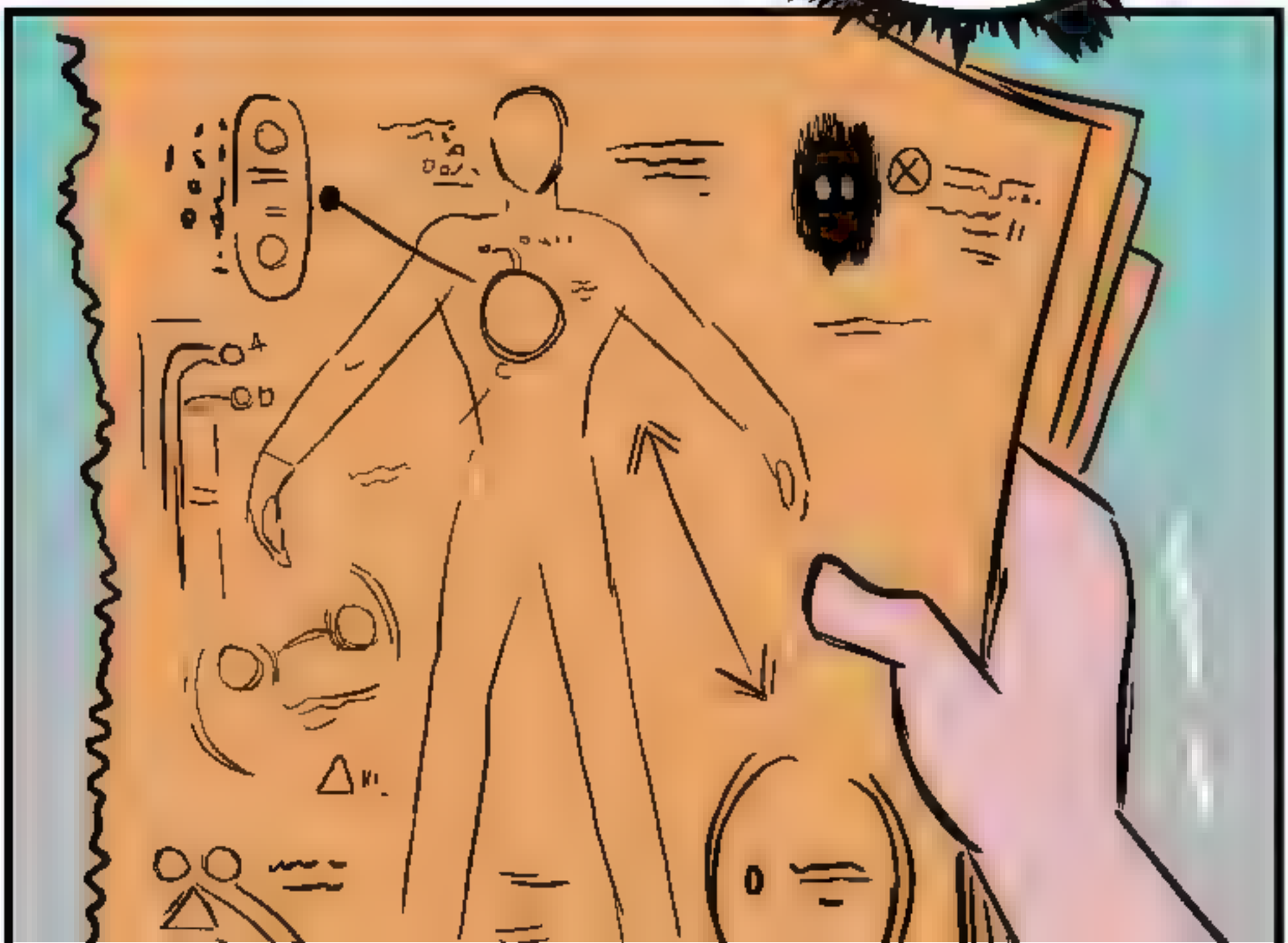
OF COURSE, WHEN WE REALIZED WE WOULD NEED YOUR ABILITIES TO GET THE LOST SWORDS BACK FROM THE SHADOW ARMY...

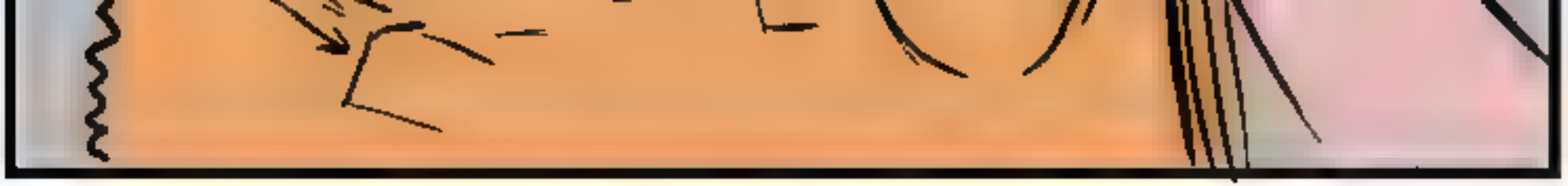
IT WAS CLEAR THAT YOUR PLANS COULD STILL HELP PROTECT US.

BUENO...
YOU KNOW THE
REST.

...ARE YOU OKAY? YOU LOOK A LITTLE PALE.

THESE
ARE THE MISSING
PAGES FROM MY
JOURNAL!

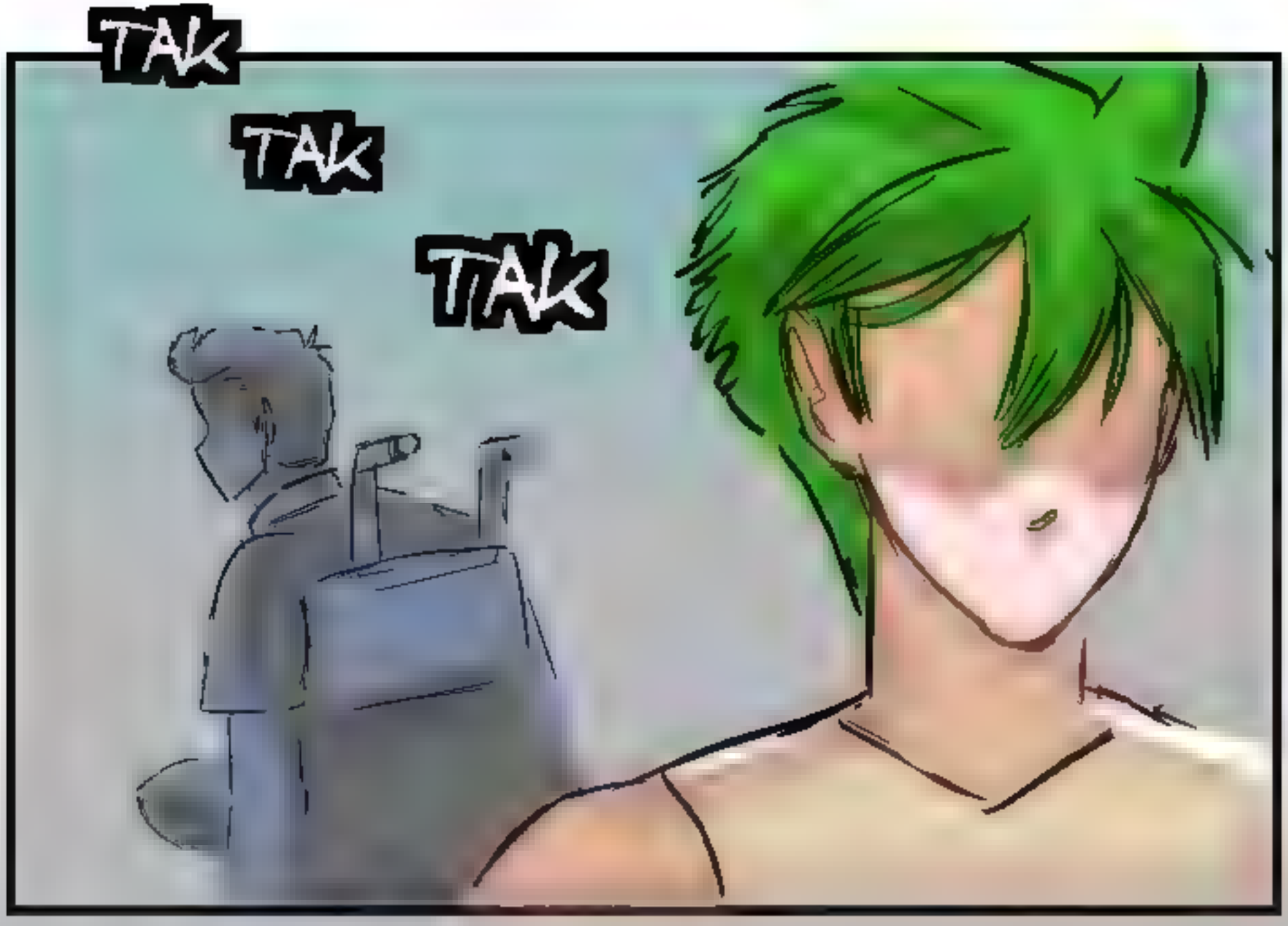

THE IMPLANT, THE WEAPONS...

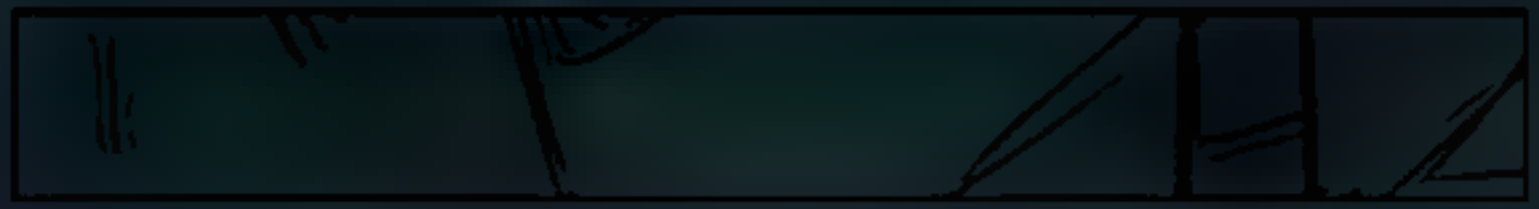


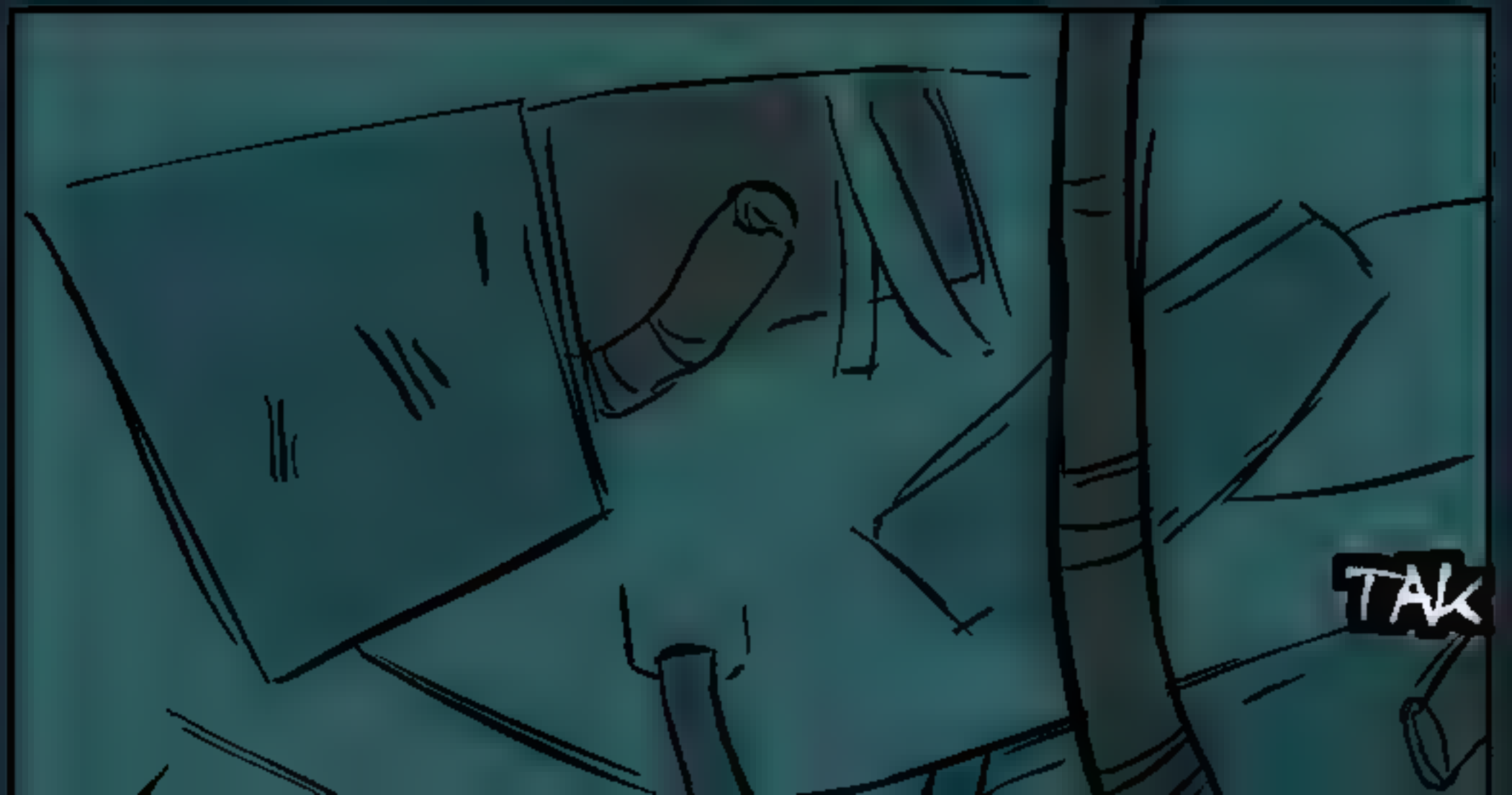
THEY
WERE ALL
MY IDEA?!

GYRUS?

WOULD YOU EXCUSE ME, PLEASE?


TAK
TAK
TAK

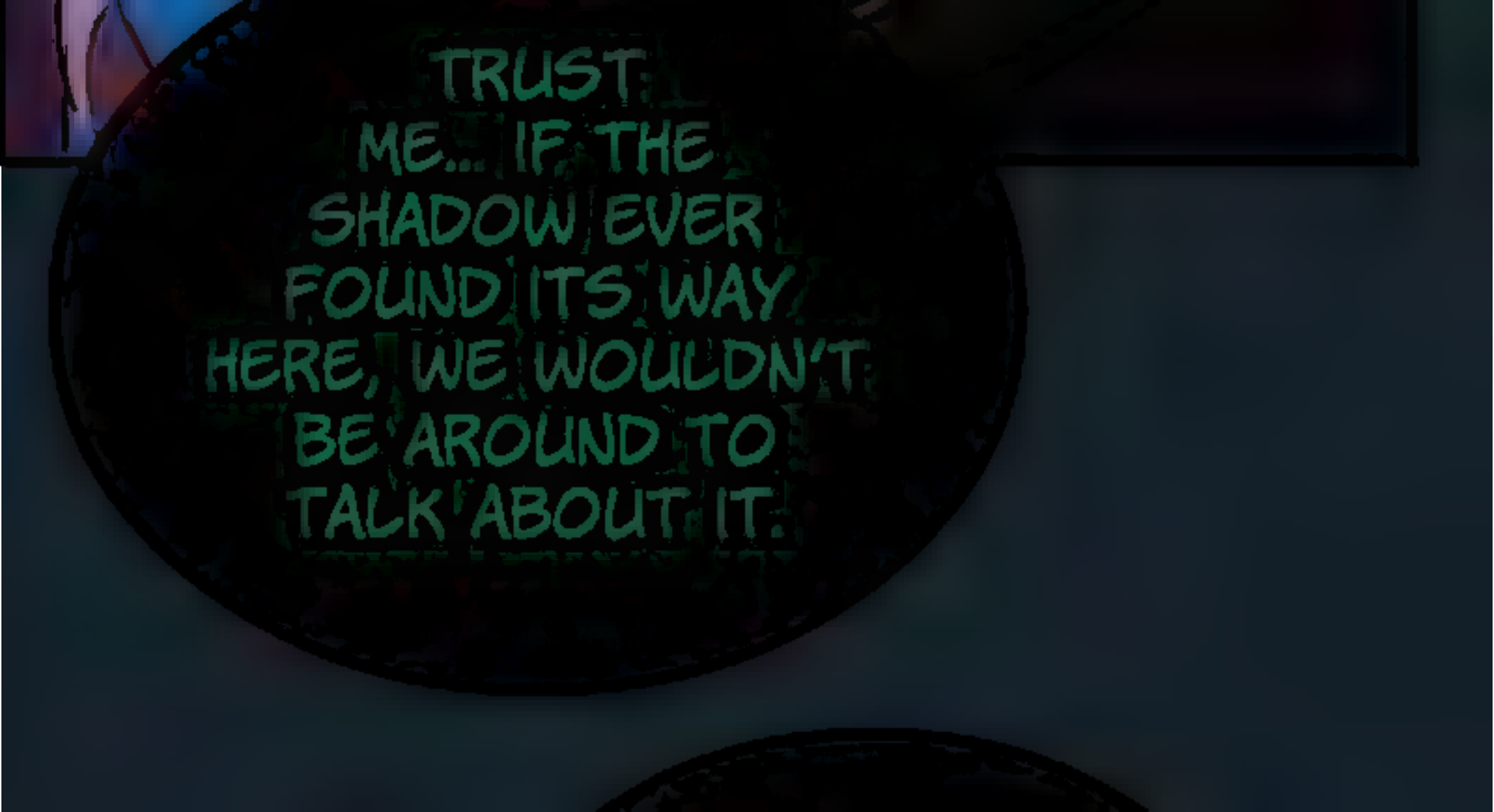


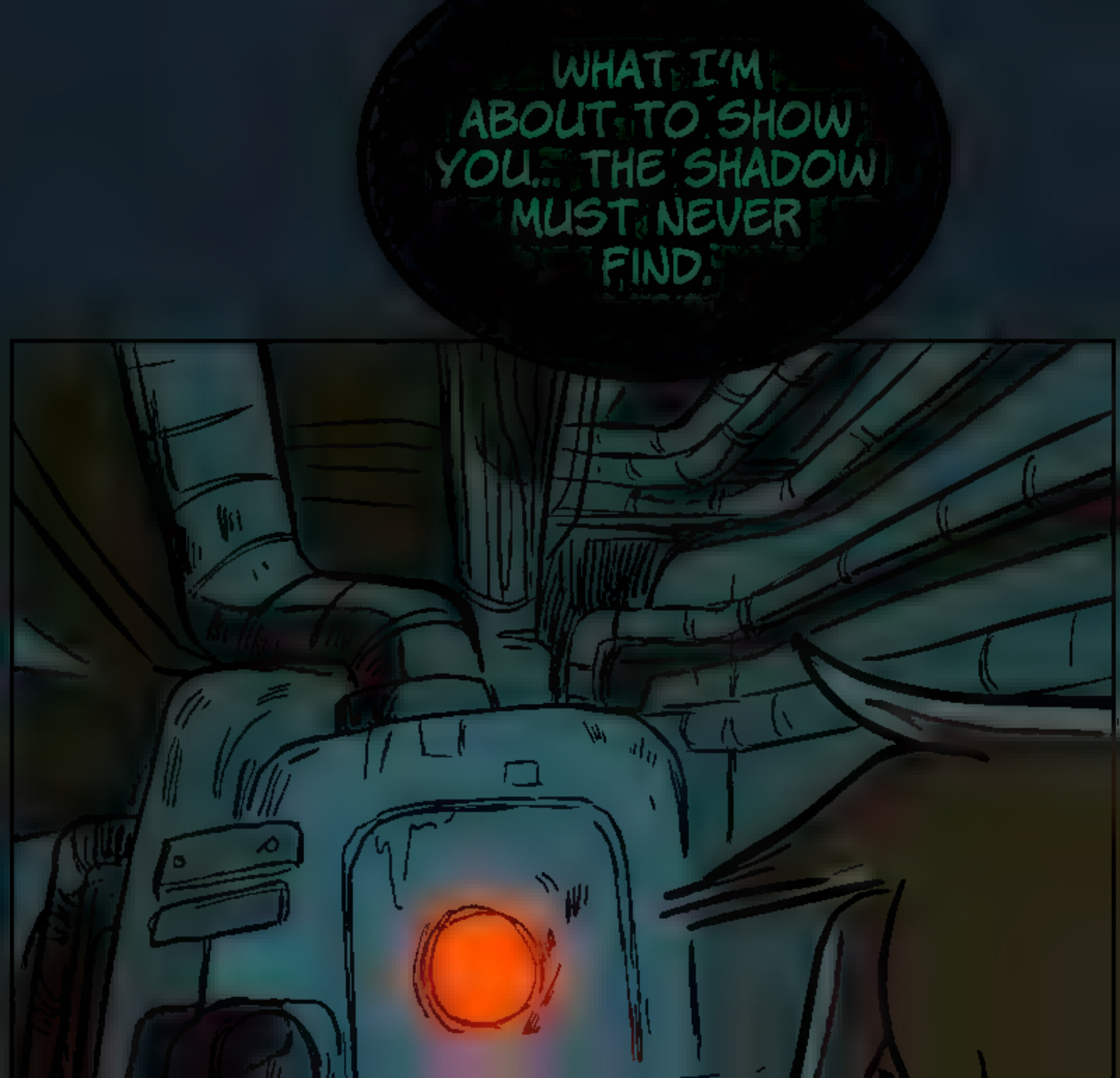

TAK

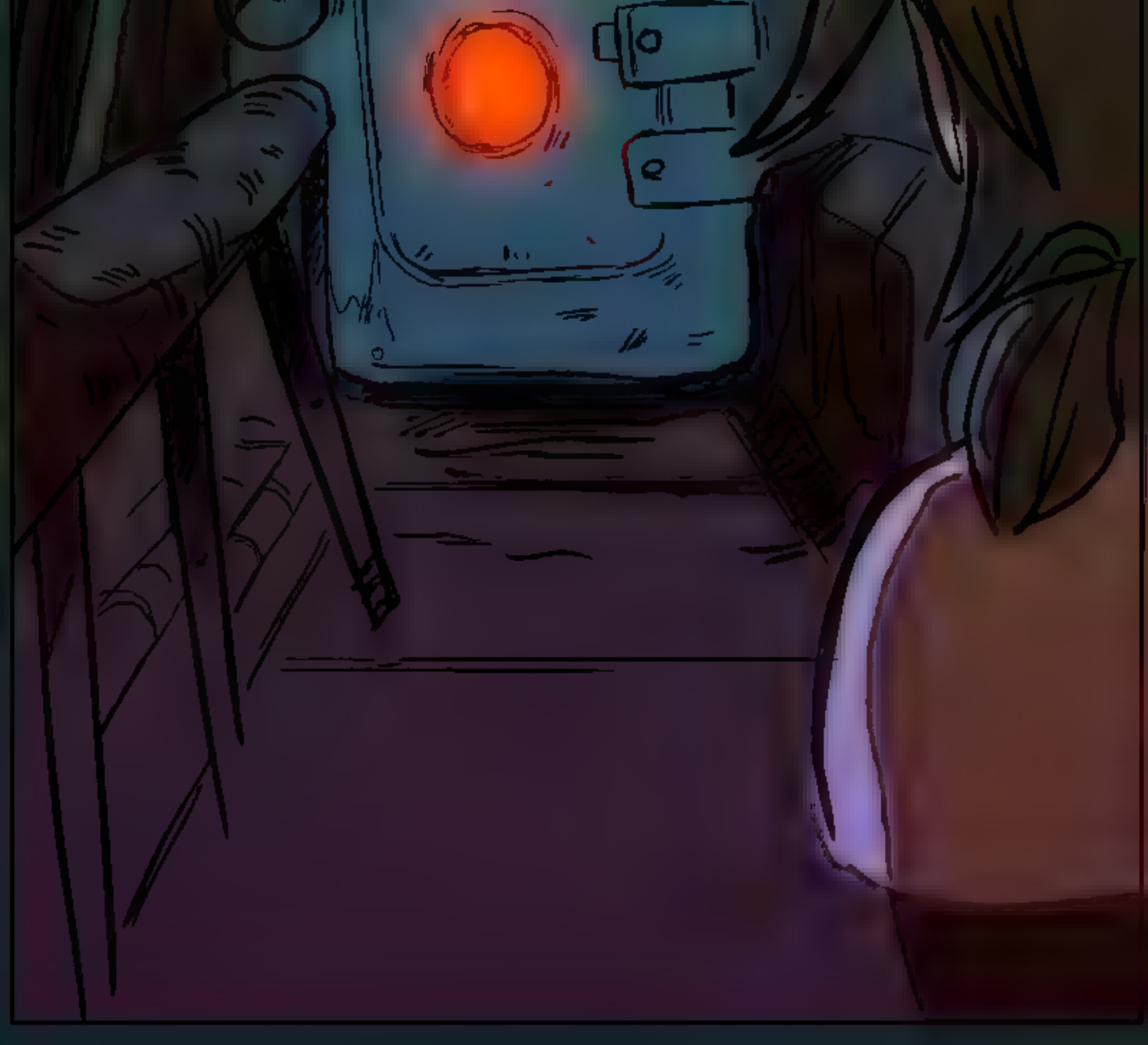
TAK
TAK

THIS PLACE IS TORN APART...

DID THE SHADOW DO THIS TOO?

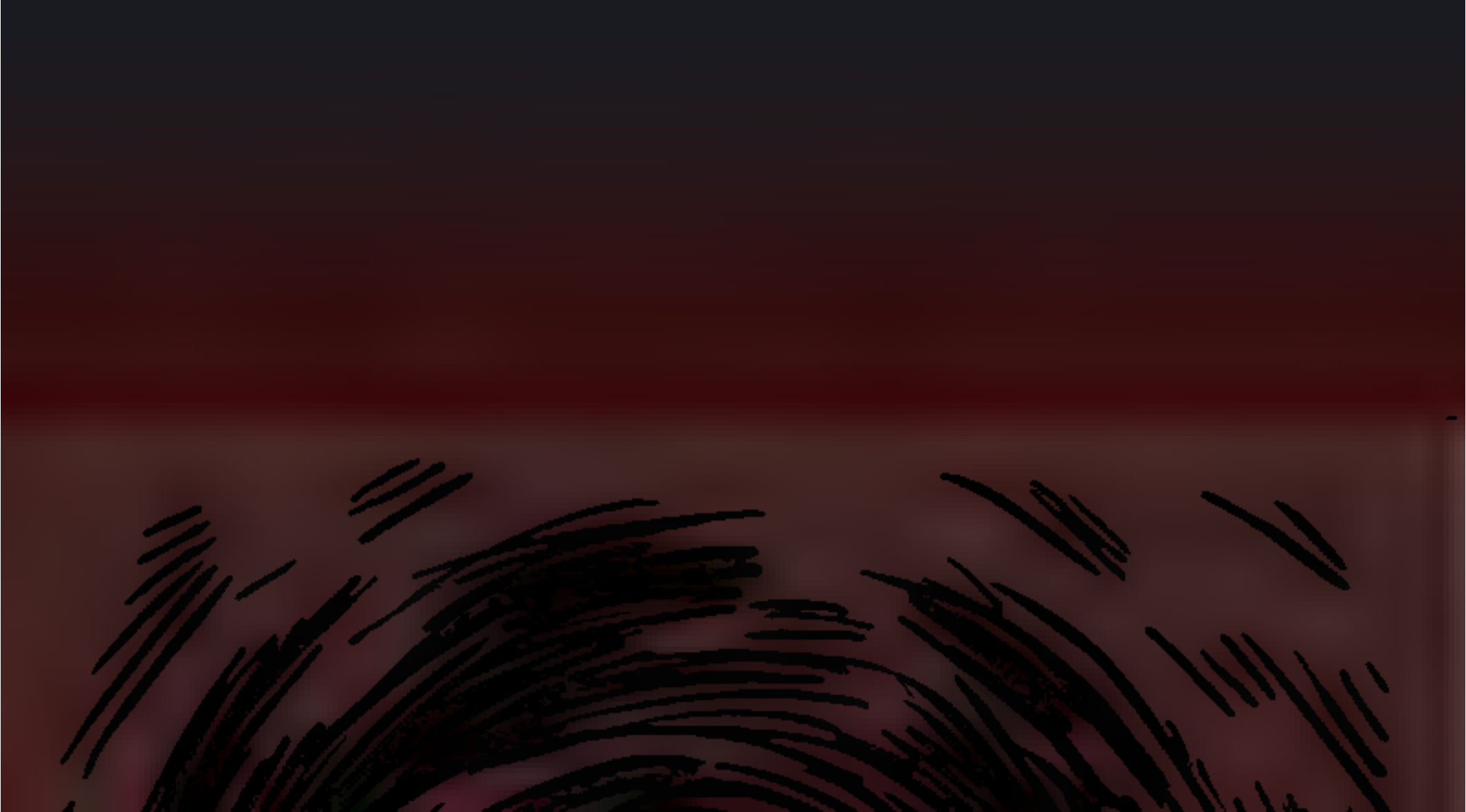

TRUST ME... IF THE SHADOW EVER FOUND ITS WAY HERE, WE WOULDN'T BE AROUND TO TALK ABOUT IT.

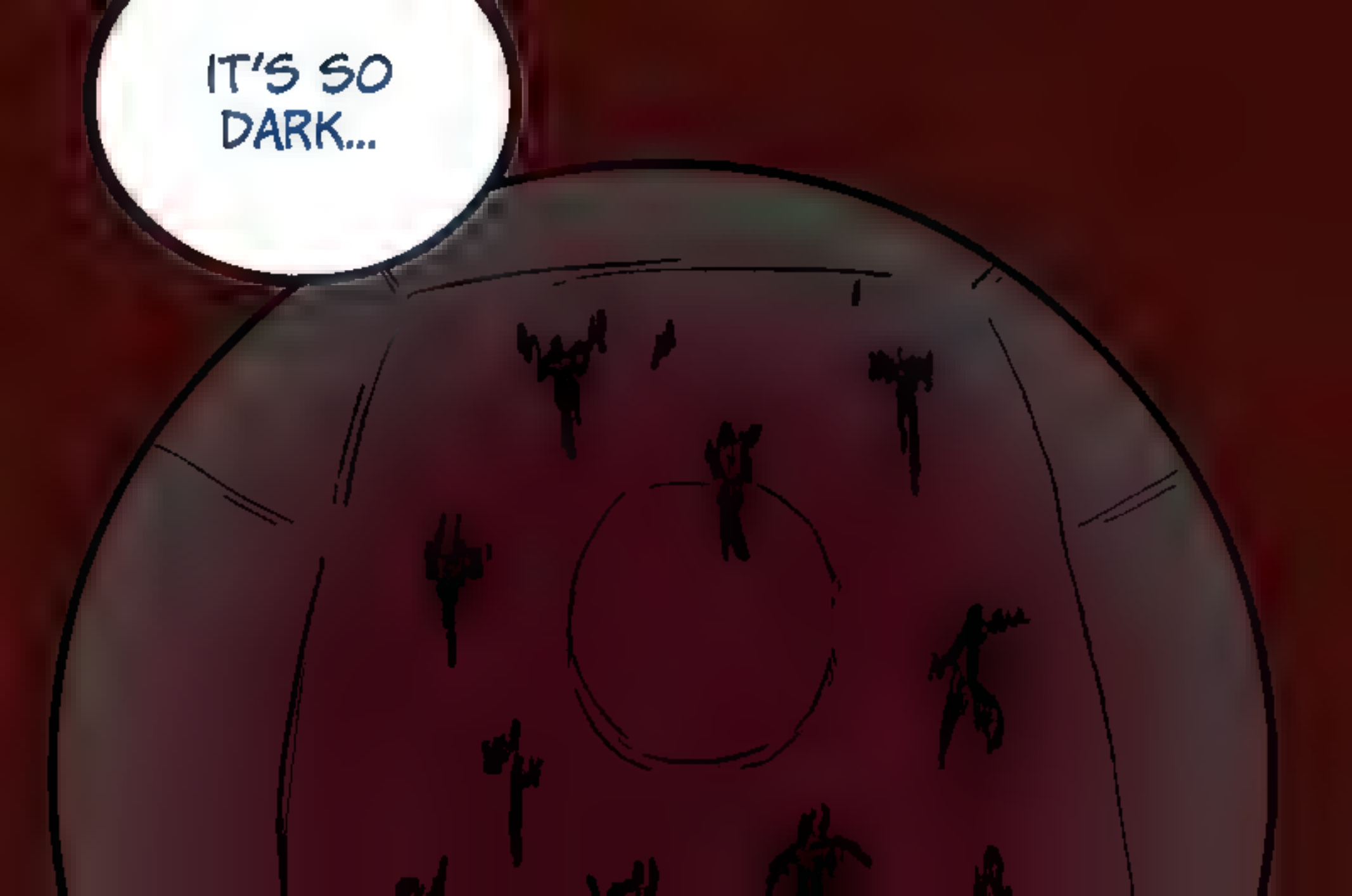

WHAT I'M ABOUT TO SHOW YOU... THE SHADOW MUST NEVER FIND.



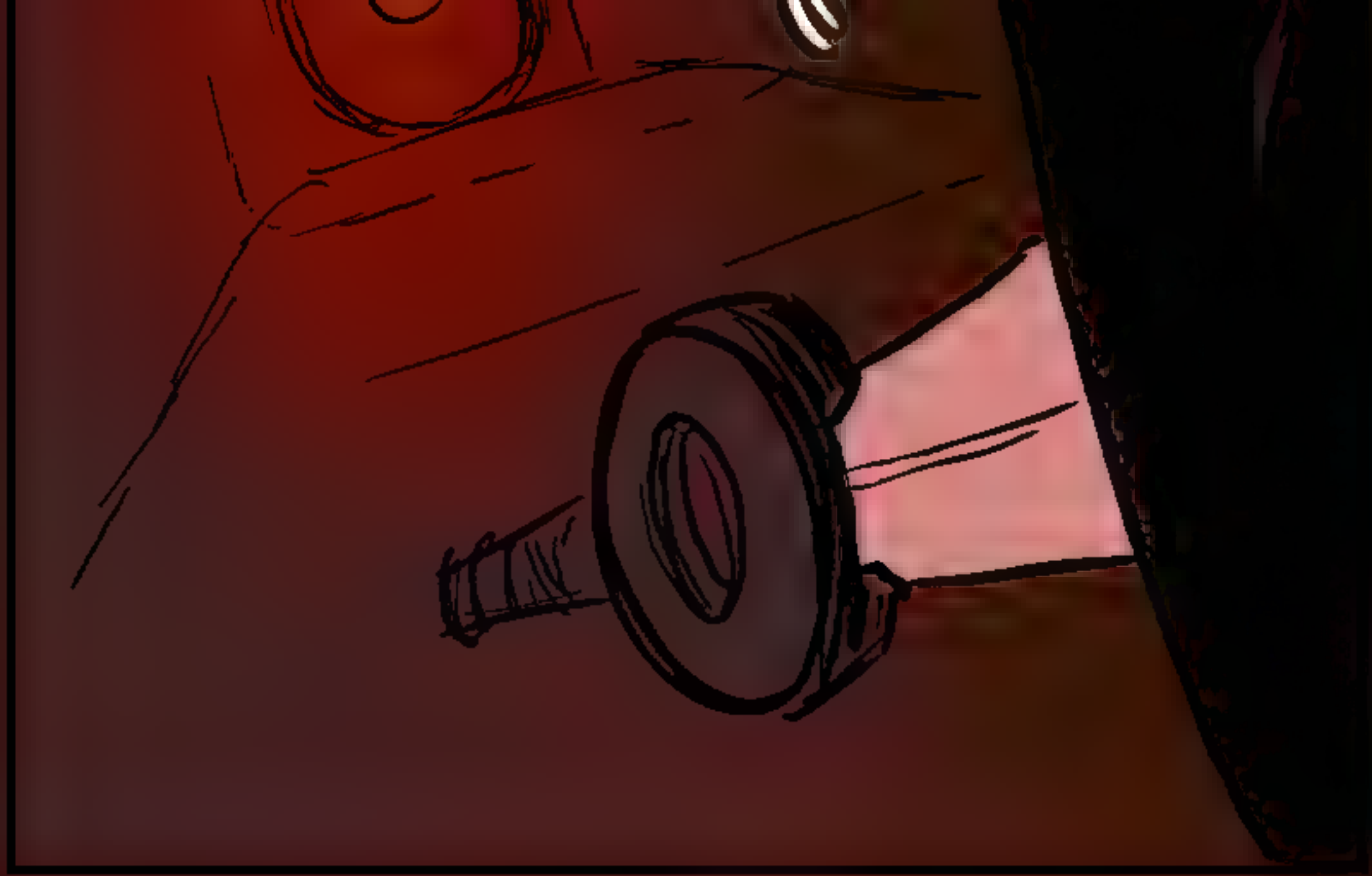
...WHAT IS IT?

SEE FOR YOURSELF.

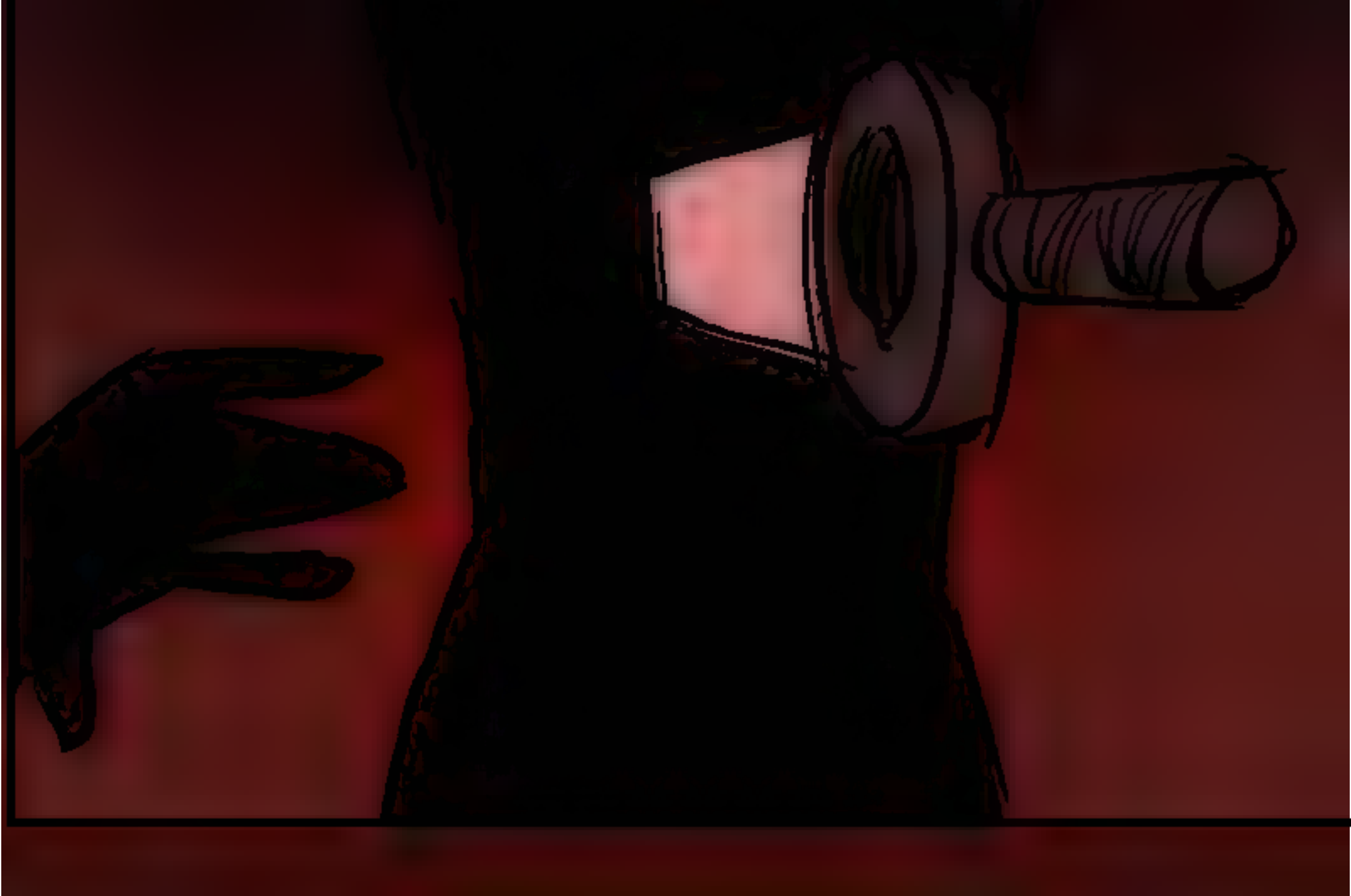



IT'S SO DARK...

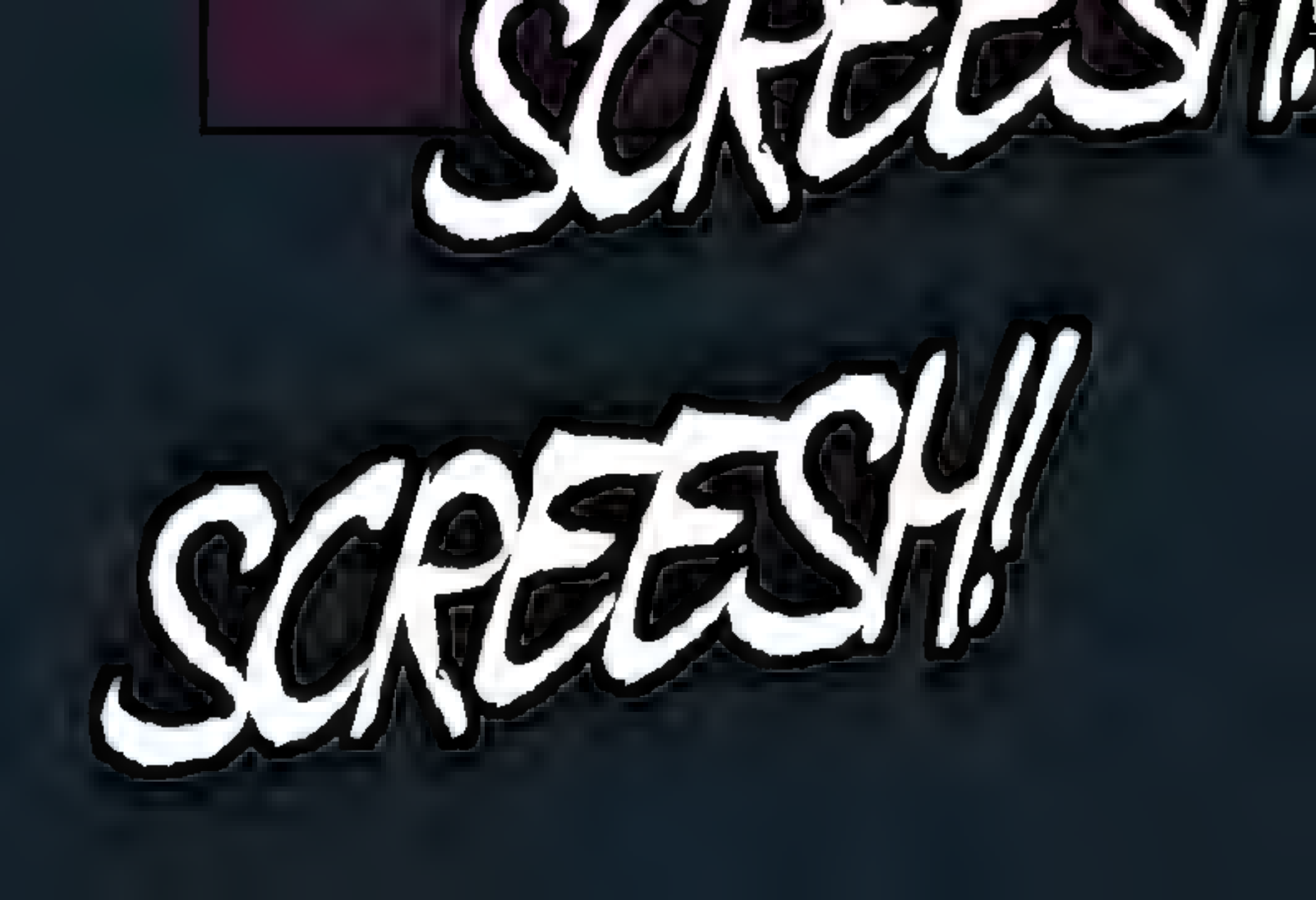
WAIT...
SOMETHING
ON THE WALL IS
MOVING...!



SCREESH!



SCREECH!

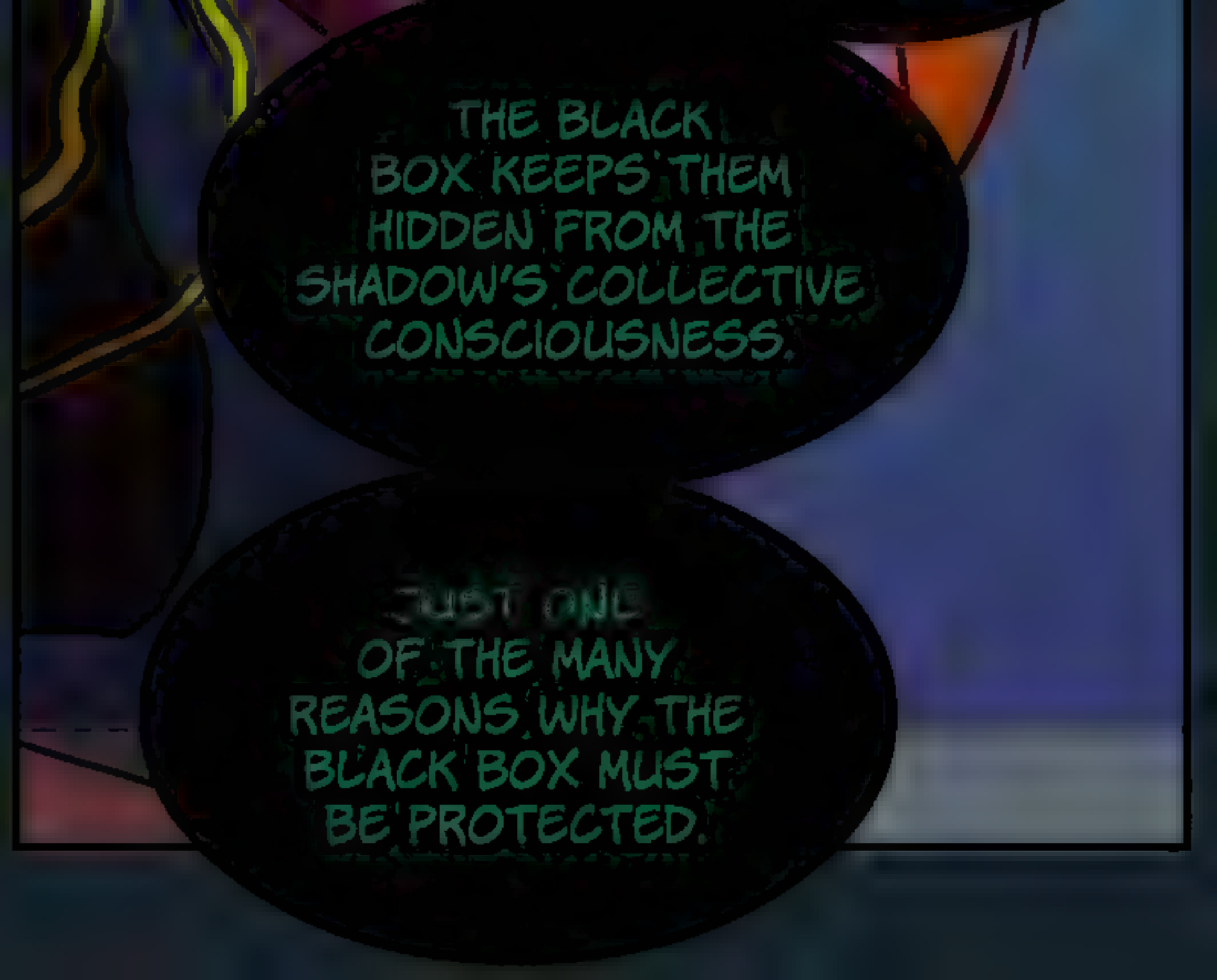

SCREESH!

OUR FRIENDS WHO WERE DEVOURED DURING THE INCIDENT?!

WHY ARE YOU SHOWING ME THIS?!
WHERE DID YOU GET THIS MEMORY?

THEY'RE NOT MEMORIES...
I'VE BEEN KEEPING THEM SAFE HERE.
SCREEEESH!

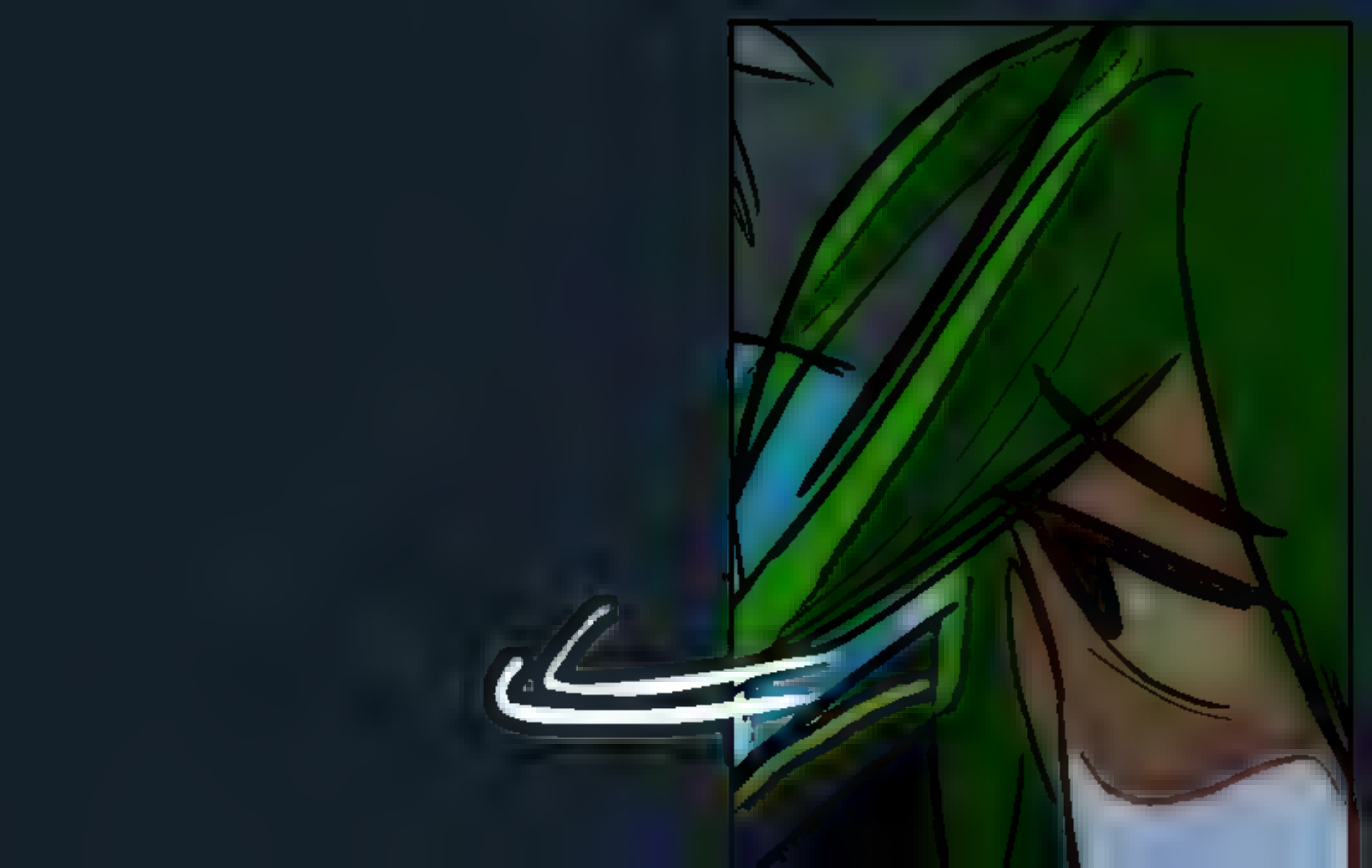
SCREEESH!!
ALL 12 OF THEM... AND THEIR 12 SWORDS.


THE BLACK BOX KEEPS THEM HIDDEN FROM THE SHADOW'S COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS.
JUST ONE OF THE MANY REASONS WHY THE BLACK BOX MUST BE PROTECTED.

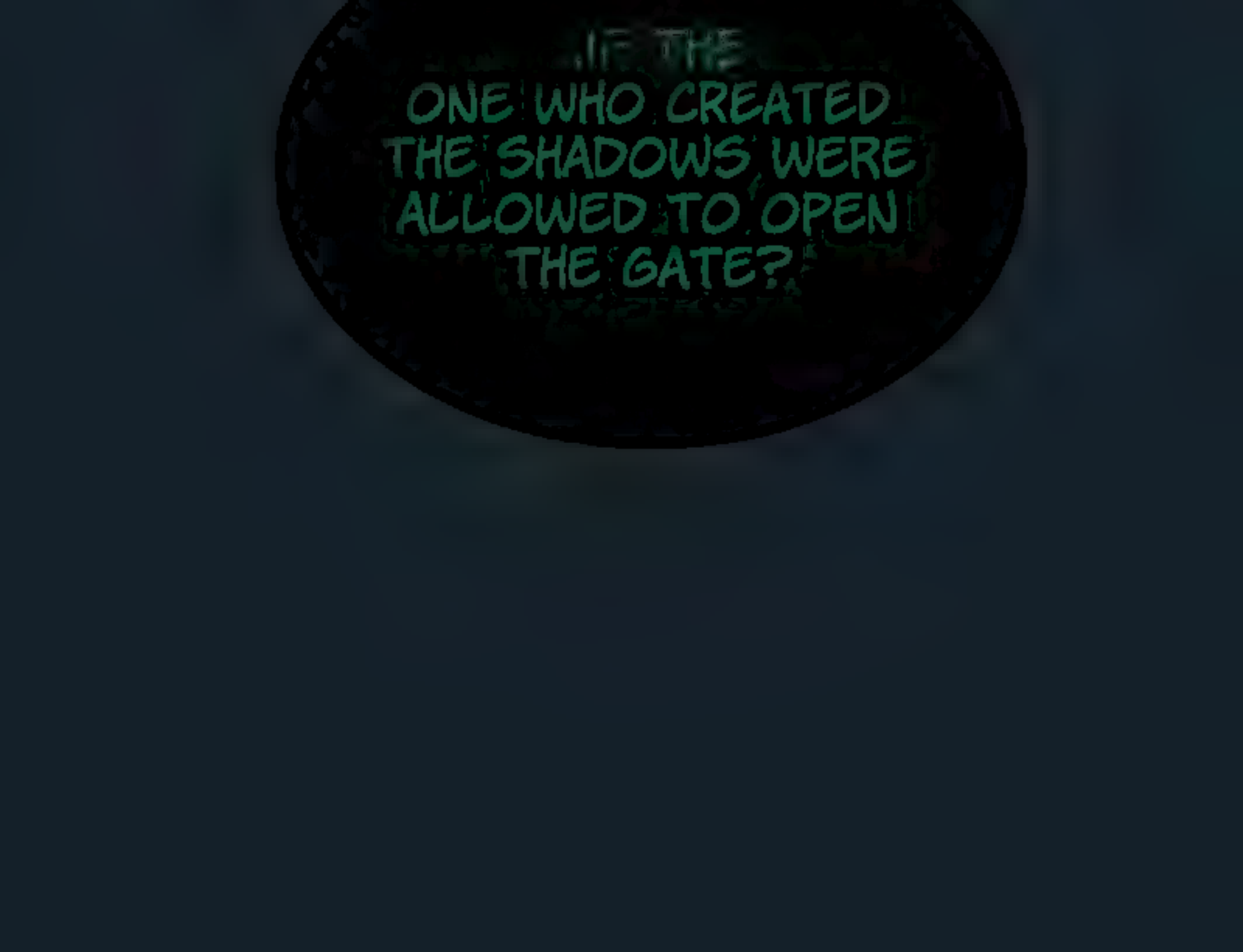
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
YOUR'E THE ONE WHO BROUGHT SHADOWS INTO THE ROOM OF SWORDS...

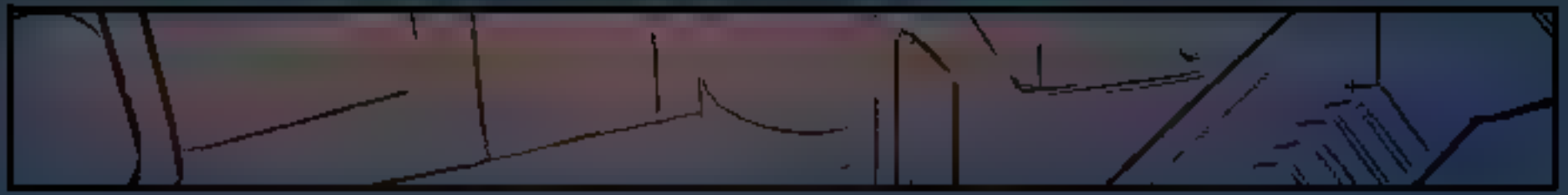
THEY WERE DEVOURED BECAUSE OF YOU!
AND NOW YOU SAY YOU'RE KEEPING THEM SAFE?

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!

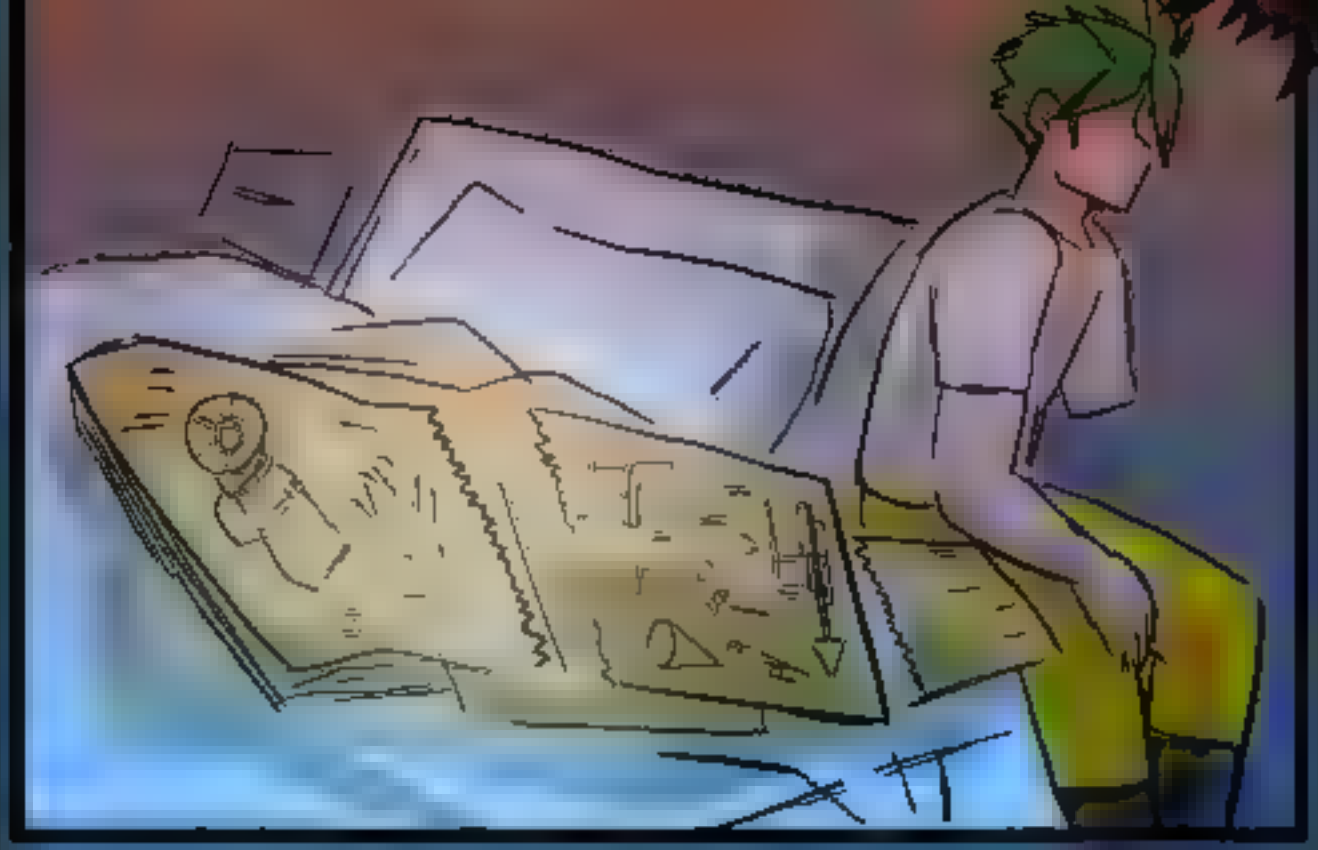


WHOEVER CONTROLS THE BLACK BOX HOLDS THE FINAL KEY TO FREEDOM.
HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN

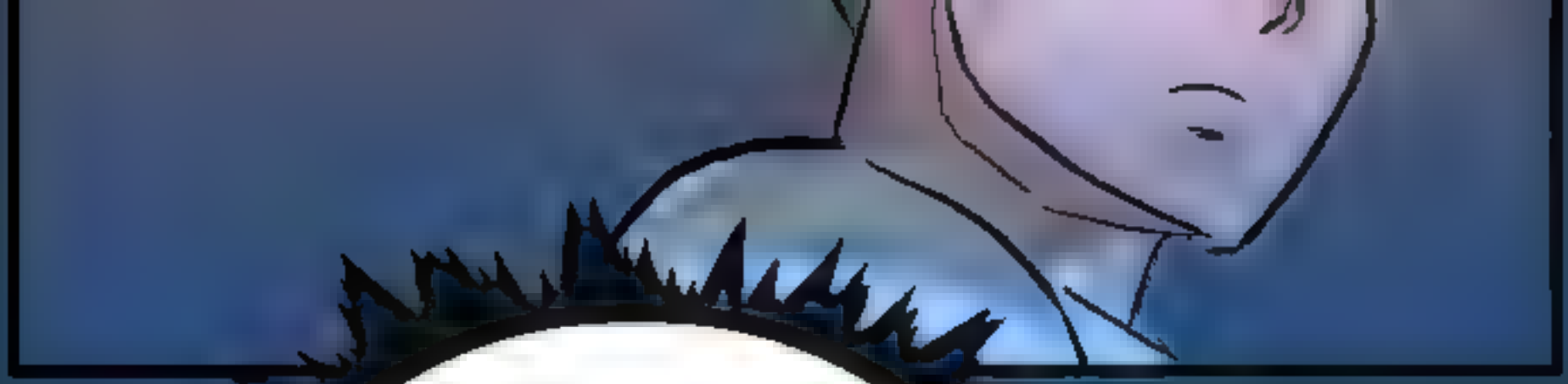

IF THE
ONE WHO CREATED
THE SHADOWS WERE
ALLOWED TO OPEN
THE GATE?



SO THIS WAS THE PLAN... TO LET SOME DEVICE KEEP MY IMPULSES IN CHECK.



SO
EVEN MY PAST
SELF COULDN'T
DO IT ALONE...

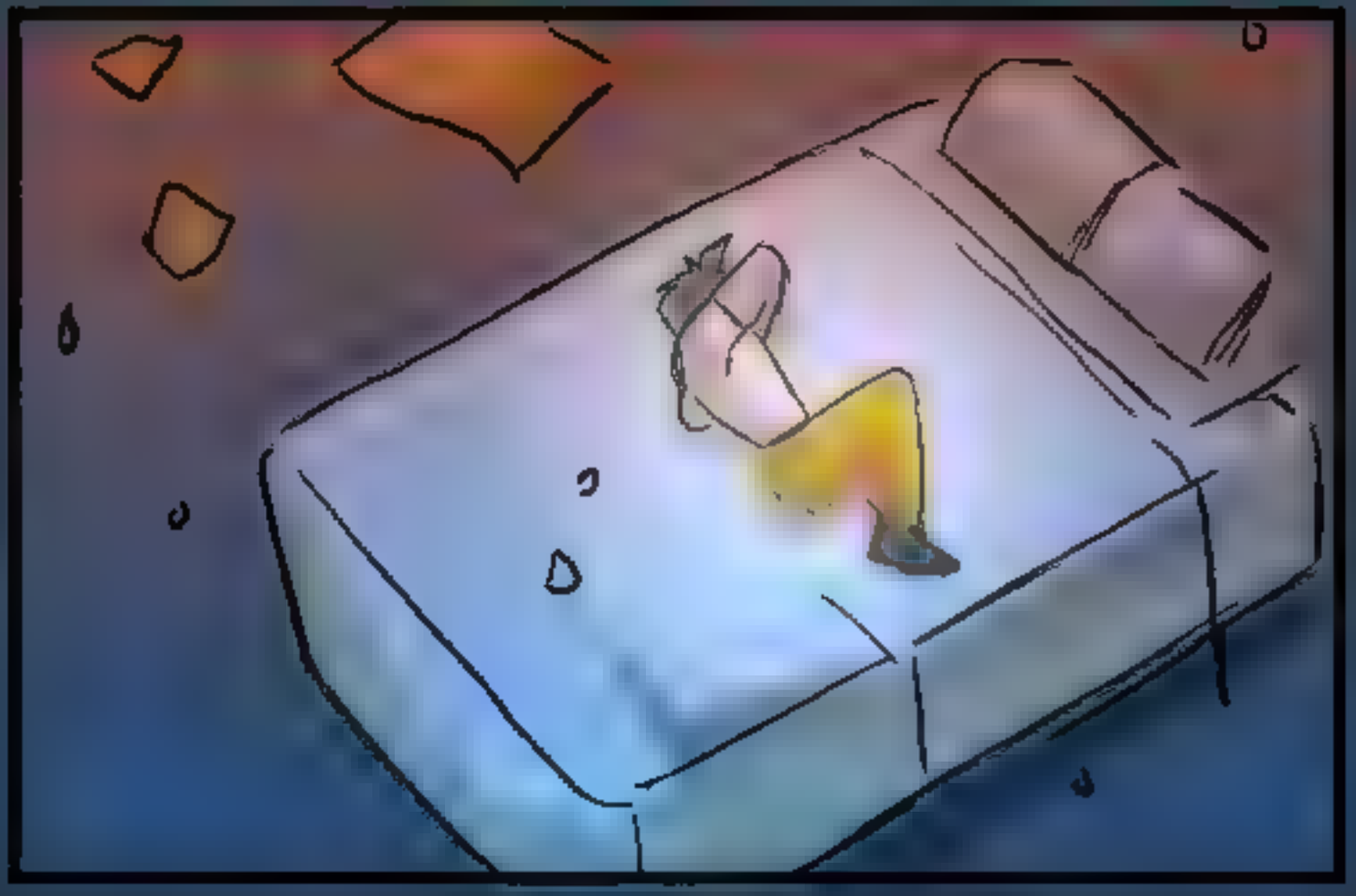


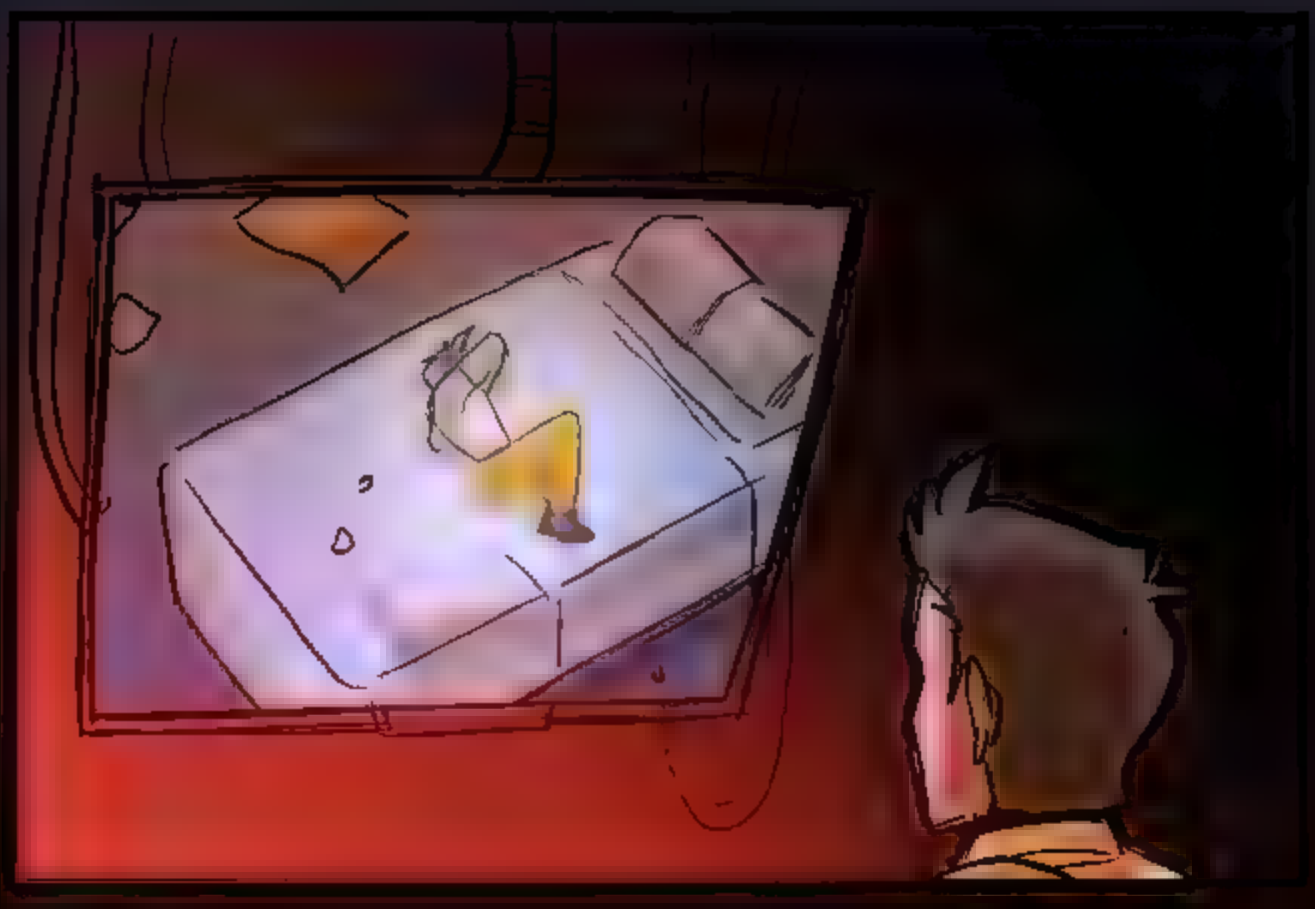
THEN...
IS THERE ANY
POINT IN RESISTING
IF THIS IS MY
NATURE?

SHOULD I JUST GIVE UP?

AAAAAH!!!

NO MATTER WHAT I DO, I'M TRAPPED.
FLOP





ROOM of SWORDS
- END OF CHAPTER &1-

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